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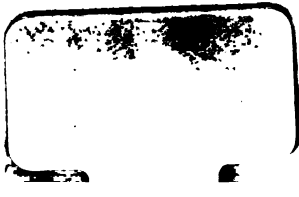

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THE

JUVENILE PLUTARCH:

CONTAINING

ACCOUNTS OF THE LIVES OF

CELEBRATED CHILDREN,

AND OF

THE INFANCY OF PERSONS

WHO HAVE BEEN

ILLUSTRIOUS FOR THEIR VIRTUES OR TALENTS.

WITH PLATES.

PART THE SECOND.

London:

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1806.

(Price Half a Crown.)

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Joyce Gold, Printer, Shoe Lane.

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THE

JUVENILE

PLUTARCH.

THOMAS GARRATT.

THOMAS GARRATT was the son of Mr. Francis Garratt, wholesale tea-dealer near London Bridge, and he died at the age of thirteen, on the 8th of March, 1798, at his father's house at Blackheath, deeply regretted, having less than a week before his decease, appeared to be in the full vigour and bloom of health.

As youth is powerfully influenced by praise, and is forward to imitate; and

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as departed merit, whatever stage of life it may have adorned, has, if acknowledged to be remarkable, a claim on posthumous notice; it cannot be judged improper to delineate the character and attainments of Thomas Garratt: but this sketch cannot be materially useful to others, nor can sufficient regard be preserved to the rules of proportion, unless the features of the portrait be minutely as well as faithfully drawn. Still, however, though the general outline and the prominent lineaments will be clearly traced, it aspires only to the title of an imperfect copy, and will be destitute of many of those delicate touches of which it is susceptible. Though executed by the hand of friendship, it will not be coloured by the pencil of flattery.

The far greater part of his education

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he received at home, together with two of his brothers, under the vigilant eye of his mother. By the force of his own genius, by the exclusion of temptations to indolence, by habits of early rising, by a frequent interchange of employment, by much personal attendance of tutors, and by a strict adherence to regularity of plan, much was accomplished. To arithmetic, to geometry, and to astronomy, he had paid considerable attention; and the Mathematical Dictionary of Dr. Hutton was one of the books of which he was most fond. In grammar he had arrived at distinguished proficiency; and even in the subordinate but not unimportant subject of punctuation he possessed much minuteness of information. The French tongue he spoke with as much fluency, and nearly as

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much correctness, as the English. He read and he conversed in the Italian; and he had made great progress in the Greek and Latin languages, and considerable advances in the German; unaided by the use of translations, which cherish idleness, which conceal ignorance, which flatter dullness, and which, as they are commonly employed, at once retard the growth and undermine the permanency of improvement. With the biography, the history, and the geography of ancient times, he had an extensive acquaintance; and any disputed point on those subjects, or on chronology, was capable of powerfully interesting his attention, and of inciting him to researches among different authors. Nor was his geographical, historic, and biographical knowledge, as relating to modern ages, though un-

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questionably less conspicuous, circumscribed within narrow limits. In the elegancies, as well as in the exactness, of English composition, he had attained to no small skill; for to this much of his time had been devoted: and if the period of life at which he arrived be considered, he must be pronounced to have possessed fertility of imagination, great accuracy of judgment, and great delicacy of taste. Of these qualities of the mind indisputable evidences were afforded by the remarks which he made when he read, as well as by the compositions which he produced. The latter were extremely numerous. Some of them filled a considerable number of pages; and in all of those which were written in the last year of his life, though exuberances, which it were better to cut away, occasionally occurred,

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different beauties of style were interspersed. They were of various kinds; and sometimes they were distinguished by novelty of illustration, sometimes by cogency of argument, sometimes by a felicity in the choice of words, sometimes by a judicious and skilful arrangement of the contents, and sometimes by a pertinent and copious accumulation of facts. He had, indeed, a quick sensibility to literary excellence. He felt and admired, in the several languages in which they wrote, the wit of Plautus, Boileau, and Fontaine; the perspicuity of diction in Xenophon and Cæsar, Cebes, and Arrian; the judgment of Virgil, Metastasio, Addison, and Pope; the elegance of Isocrates and Nepos, of Hawkesworth and Barbauld, of Jean Baptiste Rousseau and Harris of Salisbury; the sub-

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limity of Homer and Milton; the beautiful morality in Fenelon and Rollin; the vigour of genius in Tasso and Dryden, in Congreve and Fawcett; the eloquence of Sallust and of Florus; the energy of Johnson; the pathetic tenderness of Racine and of Sterne; the acumen of Hooke and Voltaire in historic reflections; the descriptive powers of Dyer, Thomson, and Goldsmith, of Shenstone, Sévigné, and Gray; and the masterly delineation of character in Shakspeare, in Schrœder, and in Goldoni. But he was not accustomed merely to feel the beauties of celebrated productions; for it may reasonably be doubted, whether there is any one of these merits of any one of these writers which has not constituted one of the topics of his conversation. To politics, as a science, his at-

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tention had not been pointed; but into the great events, successively exhibited on the theatre of Europe, he inquired with that ardour of solicitude which is generally characteristic of the man long practised in the affairs, and deeply interested in the revolutions of the world. A happy fund of native humour he frequently displayed. On any subject with which he was acquainted he could speak extempore with readiness, with energy, with vivacity of conception, and with no small degree of propriety. Of his growing excellency as a speaker, as this is a habit susceptible of perpetual improvements, it would, indeed, have been difficult to have formed too elevated expectations. In a kindred accomplishment, to which he had much longer attended, little remained for him

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to learn. When he recited from memory, to a small circle of relations or friends, any composition in prose or poetry, his delivery was highly interesting and impressive, and commanded approbation: for he possessed a memory accurate and retentive; a promptitude and perspicuity of discernment; action varied, graceful, and appropriate; features uncommonly beautiful, and capable of being instantaneously lighted up; and a voice powerful, yet surpassing in sweetness, of singular flexibility, and skilfully modulated; and it was difficult to decide whether he excelled in softness or in strength, in repeating the calm productions of didactic composition, or those of eloquence or wit. Such were the principal acquisitions of Thomas Garratt. When snatched by death from his

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friends he was not thirteen years and a half old. Attached to literature as he was, he confined not himself within its limits. Into the causes of things he was eager to penetrate. External nature had, in his eyes, numerous charms; and its diversified appearances and products appeared to him to *demand* investigation. That he would hereafter have viewed human nature also with a penetrating glance, and have nicely discriminated the varying proportions of light and shade in different characters, his observations clearly evinced.

That he was eminent for industry will perhaps be concluded. But though this be an encomium to which he had not any peculiar claim, his industry, within the last eighteen months of his life, was considerably increased; and he was still more estimable for the

qualities of the heart than for those of the understanding. His general behaviour (and this is a happy medium rarely attended to in the dawn of life) was equally remote from the bashfulness which disconcerts, and from the confidence which elates. Though highly accomplished, he was destitute of pride; though ambitious of praise, he was perfectly free from envy and jealousy: whilst sprightly in his conversation, and gay in his disposition, his character was exalted by piety, and he had a strong conviction of the importance of virtue. Generosity and disinterestedness predominated in his conduct, and gratitude in his breast was a principle of vigorous operation. Forgiveness, in case of any injury or affront, whether supposed or real, appeared to be in him a virtue, for the

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practice of which no effort was requisite. He was graceful and attractive in his manners; his flow of spirits was scarcely ever subject either to languor or to intermission; and he seemed formed to enjoy and to communicate pleasure. Cold indifference to the interests of others was a stranger to his bosom; the quickness of his tread, the illumination of his face, and the expression of his fine eyes, often announced to his relations and his friends his warmth of attachment and eagerness to oblige; and small indeed is the number of those whom disease has cut down so early in the spring of life, who will be remembered with equal tenderness by an equally large proportion of their acquaintance. But his excellencies did not generate supineness. Moral improvement was with him an

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object of serious and not unfrequent meditation; and he had, in fact, within the last two years, made perceptible progress in the cultivation of several virtues.

The nature also of his *amusements*, or the manner in which he entered into them, indicated the bright or the amiable qualities of his mind; and, when viewed in connexion with his solid acquisitions, justified the conclusion, that he exhibited the probable presages and inherited the genuine stamina of future greatness. Among the methods of relaxation, which his own inclination suggested, were miscellaneous reading and rational conversation: in the former his choice of books; in the latter the questions he proposed, the anecdotes he related, the arguments he urged, evinced his unusual ripeness of

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intellect and versatility of talents. 'Possessed of a well-disciplined eye, and a steady hand, he was singularly dexterous in the use of a refracting telescope; and being acquainted with the situation of a number of the constellations and of many single stars, he pointed to them with an admirable degree of celerity. Having melted pieces of glass, he endeavoured to polish them, that they might serve as lenses, and he formed an hygrometer. The pen, the pencil, the chess-board, and the tools of the carpenter, were by him regarded equally as the instruments of amusement; and the atlas and the globe, the barometer and the thermometer, each, in its turn, supplied him with entertainment. In the drawings which he executed, sometimes in a finished style, and sometimes with more than ordi-

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nary rapidity, taste and genius were discoverable; nor did he tread in only one or two walks of the art. In the difficult game of chess, though opposed by various competitors, and by some of long experience and tried skill, he was rarely conquered; and his handwriting, in ease, in decision of character, in exquisite beauty, was surpassed by very few men of the most acknowledged eminence in penmanship. But his sedentary or domestic amusements, no more than his studies, were permitted to impair the stoutness of his limbs, the clearness of his complexion, or the crimson colour of his cheeks. Of gardening he was peculiarly fond. Careless of fatigue, and patient of heat and cold, he spent much time in the open air, discovering, in his recreations, an uncommon share of animation

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and first principle of all religion, the being of a God."

When he attained his fifth or sixth year, and had as yet received no particular information with respect to the Author of his being, his father recurred to an ingenious device for this purpose. In a corner of a little garden, without informing any person of the circumstance, he wrote in the mould with his finger the three initials of his son's name, and sowing cresses in the furrows, covered up the seed, and smoothed the ground. On discovering "his name growing in the garden" the child was astonished, and on being told it might be accidental, he denied that such a circumstance could be the effect of chance. On this the doctor, alluding to his own person, and teaching him to reason from ana-

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To face p. 18.

James Hay Beatties early powers of reasoning.

Pub. by R. Phillips, New Bridge St. Aug. 1806.

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logy, found that he already comprehended, *that what begins to be must have a cause, and what is formed with regularity must have an intelligent cause.* "I therefore told him," says he, "the name of the Great Being who made him and all the world; concerning whose adorable nature I gave him such information as I thought he could in some measure comprehend. The lesson affected him greatly, and he never forgot either it or the circumstance that introduced it."

His father and mother taught him to write, and they appear to have been studious to prevent a provincial accent: when he had attained his seventh year, he attended the grammar-school of Aberdeen, where he acquired the elements of the Latin tongue; he also studied Ovid and Vir-

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gil at home, under the inspection of his father. About the same time he was accustomed to, and arrived at, considerable proficiency in drawing, and "in ludicrous *caricatura* he had boundless invention." His constitution being delicate, and finding him inclined rather too much to study, his provident father, as soon as he could handle a small musket, put him under the tuition of a sergeant, who taught him the military exercise. An expert fencing-master was next employed, and archery, and, in short, every thing was recurred to, that might add to his muscular strength and personal dexterity.

At the age of thirteen he was entered a student of the Marischal College, and he attended the various classes no less than five years, a year

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more than is usually thought necessary at that university to qualify for the degree of A. M., which he obtained in 1786.

About this time he applied himself in order to obtain a knowledge of the Linnæan system; he also studied theology under Drs. Campbell and Gerard: "but this was not," we are told, "the commencement of his theological pursuits; for from his early youth he had studied the holy scriptures, which he justly thought to contain the only infallible system of Christian faith. When he went from home, if he meant to be absent a few weeks or days, he took with him a pocket Bible, and a Greek New Testament."

To a young man so qualified, and educated in a great measure within its

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own walls, the university of Aberdeen was of course eager to exhibit some mark of its regard, and the professors accordingly recommended him to his majesty as a proper person to be appointed assistant professor of moral philosophy and logic to his own father, which was accordingly done when he was not quite nineteen.

He now devoted himself to those studies most appropriate to his new situation, and read the best writers on the abstract philosophy, particularly Dr. Reid, Dr. Campbell, Bishop Butler, Dr. Clarke, and Mr. Baxter; and such was his progress, that he appears to have fully comprehended Baxter, Butler, and Clarke's demonstration, *à priori*, of the divine existence.

He now applied to music, and learn-

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ed to perform upon the organ and violin, studying at the same time the theory of the art in the works of Pasquali and Holder; and that he might see the theory exemplified, he perused the compositions of Handel, Corelli, Geminiani, Avison, and Jackson, the musical authors who stood the highest in his esteem. "The music just now in vogue had no charms for him," observes his father: "he said it wanted simplicity, pathos, and harmony; and in the execution depended so much on rapidity of finger, or what may be called slight of hand, that practitioners must throw away more time than he could spare before they could acquire any dexterity in it. He was delighted with the sweet and classical correctness of Corelli, and with the affecting melodies of Jack-

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son, so well adapted to the words that accompany them; but the variety and sublimity of Handel's invention filled him with rapture and astonishment. He thought him the Shakspeare of music, or rather the Shakspeare and Milton united; and many of his simpler songs he could sing very agreeably, enforcing their expression with a thorough bass on the organ.

"He was pleased likewise with some of the ancient Scotch and Welch airs, but made no account of the quick jigging Scotch tunes, though he did not think them all equally bad. He had studied *counterpoint*, and was profoundly skilled in it: I find among his papers a great deal written on that subject; and I have seen fugues of his contrivance which would not have discredited a more experienced musician."

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In the mean time young Mr. Beattie cultivated a taste for poetry, after his father was satisfied that he possessed a poetical genius. But in the midst of his career this promising youth began to be afflicted with disease, and, notwithstanding the counteracting power of the manly exercises, to which his father very prudently had accustomed him, his constitution seems to have been weakly during the whole period of his short life.

Observing, in 1788, that his health had suffered from the fatigues of the preceding winter, his parent sent him to pass the summer at Peterhead; and as he had a genius for mechanics, and was master of the theory of organ-building, with Dr. Laing's assistance he contrived to build an organ for himself.

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Some weeks before the commencement of his last illness, he obtained his father's approbation to his studying medicine, not for the purpose of appearing in the world as a physician, or of accepting money for his prescriptions, but because he was anxious of relieving the sufferings of his fellow-creatures, and "would fain be useful occasionally to his friends, and the poor especially."

At length, during the night of the 30th of November 1789, he was suddenly seized with a fever, which threatened his immediate dissolution, and, although he lived a year longer, he was never afterwards able to engage in any serious study. His disease, which was termed a nervous atrophy, daily assuming a more fatal appearance, he at length finished his mortal career,

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without a groan or even a sigh, November 19, 1790.

The last sad and melancholy duty on the part of his unhappy father, was the publication of the posthumous works of his son*, of whom he concludes an interesting account as follows:

"I have lost," says he, "the pleasantest, and, for the last four or five years of his short life, one of the most instructive companions that ever man was delighted with. But—THE LORD GAVE; THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY: BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD! I adore the Author of all good, who gave him grace to lead such a life, and die such a death, as makes it impossible to doubt of his having entered upon the inheritance of a happy immortality."

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ANNA MARIA SCHURMAN.

THIS highly accomplished woman was born at Cologne, in 1607, and was descended from a noble family in that city.

From her childhood she showed an uncommon capacity and strength of understanding: at three years of age she was able to read extremely well, and at six she could, with a knife and scissars, cut out curious figures, such as animals and landscapes, in paper. As she advanced in years her mental talents increased wonderfully, and so in an equal degree did her desire of learning. She never rested until she had obtained the object of her inquiry; and she was possessed of so quick and penetrating a genius, that she easily

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comprehended the most intricate subjects.

In her very infancy she applied herself to painting, in which she executed flowers and insects with a most lively resemblance to nature. It is likewise related of her, that without any other instrument than a knife, she cut out, in box, the bust of herself, her mother, and brother, so very curious, and such striking likenesses, as to astonish all who saw them. Even the first rate artists beheld them with admiration; and the celebrated painter, Honthorst, valued that of her brother at a very considerable sum.

At seven years of age she learned the art of embroidering in three hours; and in a little time she became mistress of music, both vocal and instrumental. Her writing, in the characters of vari-

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ous languages, was pronounced inimitable; and persons of the finest taste and judgment considered themselves as obliged in getting some specimens for their cabinets of curiosities.

She modelled her own bust in wax, at a looking-glass, and decorated it afterwards with artificial pearls of her own making, which many persons imagined were real, till they were convinced of the contrary by pricking them with a needle.

Still these various pursuits were only relaxations from her studies, which she followed with such intenseness of application, that at the age of eleven she instructed her brothers in their lessons.

Her father perceiving her uncommon thirst for knowledge, gave her Seneca's morals to read, and took such great delight in aiding her inclination,

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that comparatively in a very short time, she not only understood the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, Chaldee, Arabic, and Ethiopic languages, but also the English, French, and Italian. She was also well versed in geography, astronomy, and philosophy, and had a competent acquaintance with history and divinity.

With all this various and profound knowledge, she was remarkable for the humility of her disposition. Her prodigious acquirements, and the fame which they procured her, did not make her proud, or lead her into a vain conceit of her abilities.

At the age of fourteen she was courted in marriage by a gentleman of high rank and great wealth; but, after deliberate consideration, she declined the

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flattering offer, and devoted herself to a single life.

If any doubts could be entertained of the truth of the surprizing things recorded of her literary accomplishments, they must be completely dispelled when it is known, that her merits were celebrated by such men as Rivetus, Vossius, Spanheim, Salmasius, and Huygens. Those great scholars were proud of her correspondence, and by their means she became the friend of Gassendi, Balzac, Mersennus, Bochart, and other famous men in France.

Her fame, indeed, was so universally spread, that personages of the most exalted rank honoured her with their company and confidence.

When Christina, queen of Sweden,

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paid her a visit, and entered into a familiar conversation with her, Anna secretly took a likeness of her majesty, which was so exceedingly striking as to excite the admiration and astonishment of all who beheld it.

The first thing published by this extraordinary woman was a Latin poem on the institution of the university of Utrecht, in 1636; but afterwards the famous professor of divinity, Spanheim, of Leyden, prevailed with her to print several learned performances in Hebrew, Latin, Greek, and French. This surprising monument of female genius was published in 1648, under the title of the "Smaller Works of Anna Maria Schurman."

This learned lady died at Wiewert, a village in Holland, in 1678, after having recommended her soul to the

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Almighty with sentiments of fervent devotion and resignation.

SIR WILLIAM PETTY.

NOTHING can be more pleasing and instructive than to observe the progress of great talents, virtue, and industry, from obscurity to distinction and wealth.

Riches and honours are real blessings, when possessed by those who have acquired them by merit, or who know how properly to estimate and use them. Neither is an antient and noble lineage to be undervalued, since it may be properly considered as a stimulus to worthy deeds, and a restraint from mean actions.

But it is more glorious to be the

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founder of a family, and to leave behind, for the imitation of posterity, a name distinguished for active virtue and well-applied ingenuity.

These remarks are supported and elucidated in the life of the celebrated Sir William Petty, the direct ancestor of the Marquis of Lansdowne; and who, by his indefatigable industry, acquired the princely fortune at present possessed by that noble family.

He was the eldest son of a clothier at Rumsey, in Hampshire, and was born in that town in 1623. While he was very young he took great delight in conversing with artificers, such as smiths, carpenters, and joiners, and imitating their several occupations, which he performed with great dexterity and ingenuity at twelve years of age. At that time he went to the grammar-school

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of his native town, and before he had attained his fifteenth year, he was well acquainted with the Latin, Greek, and French languages, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, navigation, dialling, and other branches of mathematics and mechanics.

After this he went to the university of Caen in Normandy, where he maintained himself by engaging in a little merchandising, and thus was enabled to perfect his studies in the French language and the sciences: a remarkable and laudable instance of industry and love of learning.

On his return to England he entered into the royal navy, where he saved about sixty pounds, which was a considerable sum in those days. With this money he went, for his further improvement, into the Netherlands, and

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from thence to Paris, where he studied anatomy. During his residence abroad he still continued his application to trade, which, indeed, was necessary, considering the smallness of his fortune.

At the age of twenty-four he obtained a patent from parliament for teaching the art of double writing, of which he gives the following description in a letter to a friend:—"It is an instrument of small bulk and price, easily made, and very durable, whereby any man, even at the first sight and handling, may write two resembling copies of the same thing at once, as serviceably and as fast (allowing two lines upon each page on setting the instruments,) as by the ordinary way; of what nature, or in what character, or what matter soever, as paper, parch-

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ment, a book, &c. the said writing ought to be made upon. The use hereof will be very great to lawyers and scriveners, for making of indentures, and all kind of counterparts: to merchants, &c. for copying of letters, accompts, invoices, entering of warrants, and other records; to scholars for transcribing of rare manuscripts, and preserving originals from falsification, and other injuries of time.

"It lesseneth the labour of examination, serveth to discover forgeries and surreptitious copies, and to the transacting of all business of writing, as with ease and speed, so with privacy also."

It appears that this useful instrument of his had been made some years before, and was the result of that application to mathematical and mechani-

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cal studies which formed the amusement of his boyish days: from which youths may learn this valuable and encouraging lesson, that early acquirements in learning and science, by taking deep root in the mind, may at a future period prove beneficial to the production of important discoveries.

The year following, Mr. Petty published a very valuable work on practical education, in which he recommended seminaries, wherein children should be taught to do something toward their living, as well as to read and write. Experience had convinced him of this important truth, that knowledge is only to be valued when it is applied to useful purposes, and becomes an assistant to industry. He was also of opinion, that children of the highest rank should be taught some genteel occu-

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pation, such as turning curious figures, the construction of mathematical instruments, and particularly the art of building small ships, with the manner of rigging and sailing them. Certainly nothing can be conceived more pleasing than such employments, by which, while young persons are amused, they acquire a habit of industrious application, the right use of time, and lay the foundation of principles, which at a future period may render them eminently serviceable to their country.

About this time Mr. Petty went to the university of Oxford, where he taught anatomy with great reputation, and was created doctor of physic. He was also one of those ingenious persons who met occasionally for the purpose of making philosophical experiments,

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which laid the foundation of that famous institution, afterwards formed by charter from king Charles the Second, under the name of the Royal Society. In 1651, Mr. Petty was appointed professor of anatomy at Oxford, and the year following he went to Ireland, as physician to the army.

While in that kingdom he made some valuable purchases of lands, which had been forfeited in the great rebellion.

After the restoration of Charles the Second he was knighted, and made surveyor-general of Ireland, where he engaged in mercantile concerns, which turned to a very profitable account. But he was still indefatigable in his scientific pursuits; and paid particular attention to ship-building, in which

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he made several improvements. He died in Westminster, in 1687.

This remarkable person, who was of strict integrity and of irreproachable morals, left behind him an estate worth more than 10,000 *l.* a year, all acquired by his own industry.

COLIN MACLAURIN.

This great mathematician was born of an antient family, in Argyleshire, in Scotland, in 1698. Six weeks after his birth he had the misfortune to lose his father; but this loss was compensated by the tender care and affection of his mother.

At the age of nine years, however, by her death, the guardianship of him devolved to his uncle, who paid parti-

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cular attention to his education, and in 1709, placed him under Mr. Carmichael, an eminent professor in the university of Glasgow. Here he prosecuted his studies with uncommon diligence and success.

When he was twelve years of age he happened accidentally to meet with Euclid's Elements, in the chamber of a friend. This book so powerfully engaged his attention, that he borrowed it, and in a few days made himself master of the first six books, without the least assistance.

From thence he pursued his inquiries further into the noble science of geometry, and in a short time was enabled to solve the most curious and difficult problems. It is certain that about this time he had invented many of the propositions which are contained

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in his *Geometria Organica;* and there is every reason to believe, that among the earliest productions of his genius and application may be reckoned two papers, which were afterwards thought worthy of insertion in the Philosophical Transactions; one, on the construction and measurement of curves; and the other, a new method of describing all kinds of curves.

In his fifteenth year he took the degree of master of arts, after which he left the university and went to live at his uncle's house in the country, in which delightful retirement he continued his mathematical studies, though not to the exclusion of other branches of learning.

He was well acquainted with the best works in philosophy, antient and modern, particularly the pro-

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found and inestimable Principia of Sir Isaac Newton; a performance, which, at that period, was considered as beyond the comprehension of any but the most learned mathematicians.

Mr. Maclaurin had also a fine taste for the classic authors, which he read with peculiar pleasure; nor did he pass by the productions of modern writers of elegance in prose and verse. These he accustomed himself to read at his leisure hours, especially when, during the intervals of his studies, he used to climb the lofty hills among which he lived. The grand and beautiful scenery which, in those excursions, caught his eye, inspired him with the noblest sentiments, which he frequently expressed in a hymn or poetic effusion on the beauties of nature, and the wisdom and goodness of its Divine Author.

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At the early age of nineteen, when other young men are attending the lessons of instructors, or dissipating their time in idle and extravagant amusements, Mr. Maclaurin was appointed, after a comparative trial of ten days, with a very able competitor, professor of mathematics in the Marischal College of Aberdeen.

During a vacation from the duties of his office, he took the opportunity of travelling to London, where he formed an intimacy with Dr. Samuel Clarke, and several other learned men, but above all with Sir Isaac Newton, whose friendship he ever after esteemed the greatest honour and happiness of his life.

At this time he was also elected a fellow of the Royal Society, to whose transactions he contributed many va-

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luable papers; as he also did to the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris; one of which, on the percussion of bodies, obtained a prize in 1724.

The year following he was chosen professor of mathematics, in the university of Edinburgh, chiefly by the recommendation and kind offices of Sir Isaac Newton.

Here there were generally above a hundred young gentlemen attending his lectures every year. These pupils he divided into four or five classes, in each of which he employed a full hour every day, from the 1st of November to the 1st of June: in the first or lowest class he taught the six first books of Euclid's elements, plain trigonometry, practical geometry, mensuration, the elements of fortification, and an introduction to algebra. The second class

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studied algebra, the eleventh and twelfth books of Euclid, spherical trigonometry, conic sections, and the general principles of astronomy. The third class went on in astronomy and perspective, read a part of Sir Isaac Newton's principles of mathematical philosophy, and had a course of experiments for illustrating them performed and explained to them.

Those who composed the fourth class read a system of fluxions, the doctrine of chances, and the remainder of Newton's principles.

In 1742, he published his treatise on fluxions, a work which is superior to all praise. About this time we find him engaged in promoting several public works of great utility, such as the building an astronomical observatory, at Edinburgh; a plan for improving the natural history, and settling the

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geography of the Orkney and Shetland islands; and another for discovering a north-east passage to the south seas.

But while he was thus employed the rebellion broke out in Scotland, in favour of the Pretender; and as Mr. Maclaurin had exerted himself in defence of the king and religion, as by law established, he was under the necessity of withdrawing to England, when the rebels approached Edinburgh. He was hospitably entertained by the archbishop of York, who had a great esteem for him, and kept up a regular correspondence with him after his return to Edinburgh.

Soon after this he fell dangerously ill of a dropsy, which disorder was heightened by the fatigue and agitation he had undergone. Still he continued

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his favourite studies, and employed himself in finishing his excellent account of Sir Isaac Newton's philosophical discoveries. While he was dictating the conclusion of this work, in which he proves, in the noblest manner, the wisdom, power, goodness, and other attributes of the Deity, his amanuensis observed a remarkable alteration in his voice and manner. No pulse could then be felt, and his hands and feet were already cold. Notwithstanding this extremely weak condition, he sat in his chair, and conversed with his friend Dr. Monro, with his usual serenity and strength of reasoning, desiring the doctor to account for a phænomenon which he then observed in himself. Flashes of fire seemed to dart from his eyes, while, in the mean time, his sight was failing, so that he could

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scarcely distinguish one object from another. He then desired to be laid on his bed, where, with all the tranquillity and fervent piety of a christian, he expired without any pain or struggle, June 4, 1746. Dr. Monro, who pronounced his eulogium at the next meeting of the university, after displaying the acute intellectual powers, and extensive learning of his deceased friend, observed, that he was still more to be admired for the superior qualities of the heart, for his sincere love to God and men, his convivial benevolence and unaffected piety, and for the warmth and constancy of his friendship.

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JOHN PICUS, OF MIRANDULA.

THIS illustrious scholar, who adorned his high birth by the most brilliant talents as well as by his pre-eminent virtues, was the son of John Francis Picus, Prince of Mirandula in Italy, and born there February 24, 1463.

He was but an infant when his father died; and the care of his education devolved upon his mother, who provided him with the best masters in every accomplishment which at that period was deemed necessary to form the gentleman and the scholar. His progress in polite learning was such as to surpass the most sanguine expectations of his friends, who were asto-

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nished to perceive in a mere child, maturity of judgment, vigour of intellect, and correctness of taste in the composition both of prose and verse, which would have done credit to learned professors.

Such was his quickness of apprehension, that he understood at once; and such the strength of his recollection, that he retained with the greatest ease, all the instructions of his preceptors. Of the powers of his memory, indeed, the most surprising particulars are recorded. If he heard a poem once recited, he could not only repeat the whole exactly in order, without missing a single word, but he could also repeat the same backwards, beginning with the last line, and so on to the first.

Being early designed by his mother

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for the church, Picus was sent at the age of fourteen, at which age he was well versed in the Latin language, to the university of Bologna to study the pontifical or canon law, which was deemed essential to form the character of an accomplished ecclesiastic.

To this dry and uninteresting study, grounded only on remote customs and obscure traditions, he applied with great patience and perseverance for two years; thus setting a laudable example of dutiful obedience to parental judgment and partiality, even to the sacrifice of those inclinations which would have led his ardent mind to different and more pleasing pursuits.

During this period, he composed an abbreviated digest of the pontifical letters or decrees of the popes, so well ar-

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ranged, as to furnish an expeditious mode of deducing from these confused authorities the necessary conclusions, t

But the vigorous and speculating mind of Picus was not to be confined to such narrow acquirements. Anxious to grasp all those branches of science which in a great measure constituted the learning of the age in which he lived, he quitted Bologna, and visited the most celebrated universities of Italy and France, where he courted the acquaintance of every individual scholar and professor of distinction, with whom he entered into minute conversations, for the sake of acquiring knowledge: so that, before he had attained the years of manhood, he was no less universally than deservedly recognised as a most consummate philosopher and divine.

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This early display of genius, for which Picus was so remarkable, naturally leads us to conclude that his juvenile days did not pass without producing a variety of compositions worthy of such extraordinary talents and acquirements. In fact, many of his letters which yet remain, appear to have been written while he was very young. He very soon distinguished himself as a poet in the Latin and Italian languages; but it is to be regretted that, from extreme delicacy of sentiment, at a later period, he was induced to commit the efforts of his muse to the flames.

Yet the productions of his juvenile pen, had they reached our times, would, perhaps, have been read with much greater interest, than those profound speculations of his maturer

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years, which still remain; and his classical effusions would have excited universal delight and admiration, while his abstruse speculations only serve to make us lament that such genius should be wasted on learned trifles.

Of the early letters of Picus, many might be selected which tend greatly to support the high reputation of their author. But in examining the literary character of this wonderful phænomenon, we have to contend with innumerable difficulties, owing to the darkness of the age in which he lived, the superstition in which he was brought up, and by which he was led to sacrifice his truly elegant performances, to studies which were then regarded as indispensable, but which have long since lost their value.

He spent seven years in visiting the

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various seats of learning; and it would no doubt be highly interesting, if it were practicable, to follow his steps from place to place, and to witness those bright effusions of genius which rendered him the object of universal admiration, and caused his friendship to be courted by scholars of the highest rank and celebrity.

One of his most intimate friends was the celebrated Politian, with whom he kept up a constant correspondence.

To a very complimentary letter which Politian had sent him, Picus modestly returned this answer: "My obligations to you, Politian, for the praise you bestow upon me, in your last, are proportionable to my consciousness of how much I fall short of deserving them; since obligation originates from that which is gratui-

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tously given, and not from that which is paid as a debt. I am, therefore, your debtor for all the handsome things you say of me. As I find in myself nothing that corresponds with your praise; as you owe me nothing of the kind, the whole must be placed to the account of your peculiar good will and partiality for me. If in other respects you duly weigh my pretensions, you will discover nothing but what is trivial, humble, and circumscribed. I am but a *tyrunculus*, or a mere novice just advanced one step from the darkness of ignorance, and not farther. It would be sufficiently kind in you to place me in the rank of students; the appellation of learned has something more in it, which applies only to such as yourself. Little do these exalted titles accord with

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me; since of the leading branches of science, so far am I from being a master, that I behold them, as it were, through a glass, and with but a distant prospect. I shall, however, strive, as indeed I now do, to become in future such as you represent me to be at present; what you are pleased to think, or at least wish me to be."

The uncommon attainments, and elegant accomplishments of Picus, were united to such an excellence of disposition, that while they raised the wonder, they at the same time conciliated the esteem of the greatest scholars who had the good fortune of his acquaintance. Persons at a distance, indeed, and who knew him only by report, would hardly credit the astonishing things which were related of his mental powers.

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They were even offended with Politian for speaking so highly of the extensive learning of his friend; on which occasion, that generous man took an opportunity of sending to one of his correspondents, an ingenious epistle written by Picus, in which he had ironically defended a certain class of academic philosophers against Hermolaus Barbarus. "From this letter," says Politian, "you will be able to form some estimate of the talents of Picus; yet it is to measure, as the proverb says, 'Leonem ab unguibus.' He is indeed in the constant habit of writing largely on one important subject or other; as his works, daily maturing for publication, will hereafter convince the world; yet now and then he condescends to

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exercise his pen on these lighter subjects. This very letter, so full, so pointed, so rich in argument, was in a manner the extemporaneous production of a few morning hours. You will, however, see in it select expressions, a truly classical style, attic simplicity, close argument, roundness of period, an agreeable conciseness, a sprightly glow of colouring, happy metaphors, acute reasoning, appropriate elucidation, strong and convincing argument, solidity of judgment, accuracy of discrimination, uncommon force, ingenuity, and dignity."

Such was the praise which Politian bestowed upon this wonderful youth, when writing in a private manner to a learned professor at a distance.

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Praise so bestowed, and so deserved, redounds equally to the honour of Picus and his friend.

At the age of twenty-two, Picus quitted the university of Florence, and devoted himself to a branch of study which at that period had scarcely engaged the attention of learned men. Of this he gives the following account in a letter to Ficinus:—

"Lately," says he, "I devoted a whole month of nightly as well as daily application to the Hebrew tongue. At present I am wholly occupied by the Arabic and Chaldaic; and I do not despair of speedily making the same progress in these languages that I have made in the Hebrew: for in this last I can already dictate a letter, though not with elegance, yet without grammatical inaccuracies.

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You see," he adds, " what ardency of desire, aided by labour and diligence, can effect, even where the capacity is not the strongest."

To these exertions Picus declares he was stimulated by obtaining some oriental works of inestimable value, and which were thrown in his way by the peculiar kindness of Providence.

Shortly after this he set out for Rome, where he published nine hundred propositions in almost every science, which he engaged publicly to defend against all opponents whatsoever: and that time might be allowed for the circulation of them through the several universities of Italy, notice was given that the public discussion would not take place till the feast of Epiphany. A further

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object of this delay was to afford to all scholars in the remotest seats of learning, who might wish to be present, and to assist at the disputation, an opportunity of repairing to Rome for that purpose. So desirous was Picus of attracting thither all the wit and talents of Italy, that he engaged to defray out of his own purse the charges of all scholars, from whatever part, who should undertake the journey to Rome for the purpose of disputing publicly with him on any of the subjects proposed.

The boldness of this challenge from so young a person could not but astonish the learned world; but astonishment soon gave place to envy; and the scholars and divines of Rome, whose credit was immediately implicated, conscious of their own inability

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to contend with this prodigy of erudition, began to devise means of hindering him from shewing his superiority in this public manner. Lampoons and satires were circulated at first; but these proving ineffectual to drive the young champion from the field, recourse was had to a more powerful expedient. Of the propositions exhibited by Picus, thirteen were selected as of an heretical tendency. This was a very serious charge, and proved so effectual, that after staying a year at Rome in expectation of reaping an abundant harvest of praise, he found himself not only prevented from displaying his talents as a disputant; but, what was worse, involved in the accusation of heresy in the principal seat of bigotry and superstition.

Under such circumstances, it is no

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wonder Picus thought it most prudent to quit Rome, and to seek an asylum with his great friend Lorenzo de Medici at Florence.

He there wrote his apology, a work of immense learning, in the composition of which he was engaged only twenty days. This book he respectfully sent to Pope Innocent VIII, who was a man of mild disposition, and had a great regard for the author. His Holiness, however, was not willing that subjects of so delicate a nature should be publicly agitated; and therefore, while he acquitted Picus of any wrong intention or corrupt principles, he caused his apology to be suppressed. Such was the issue of this project, suggested by youthful vanity and ambition; and Picus afterwards acknowledged with thankful-

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ness, that Providence, which often brings good out of evil, had rendered the malevolence of his enemies a salutary check to his career of vain glory in which he had been so far led astray.

By the kindness of his friend Lorenzo, he now took up his residence at Fiesole, an elevated spot in the neighbourhood of Florence, abounding with beautiful scenery and most extensive prospects, admirably adapted to the purposes of study and contemplation.

Here he devoted himself to theological inquiries, and to those philological pursuits, which are necessary to the study of divinity.

He published some works of a religious character, which display prodigious reading; and, considering the age in which he wrote, considerable

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judgment: but what is better, they evince genuine piety and devotion, breathing a pure spirit of love to God and man.

The Psalms of David appear to have been his favourite study, and in commenting upon which he laboured with great assiduity. Of the merit of this commentary, and of its author, a learned man of that period thus writes:

"So young a man!" speaking of Picus, "and yet connecting himself in erudition with the most celebrated fathers of the church! What is not such a person capable of becoming, if length of years be granted him in proportion to his talents! What gratification may we not expect from the Psalms and poetical works of David, in the elucidation of which he has been long employed; exploring with

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infinite research all that Latin, Greek, and Hebrew authors have written on this subject; and for the completion of which work, I have the happiness to say, he has chosen the solitude of our monastery at Fiesole! To behold him, to listen to him, is the height of felicity!"

But the high expectations of the best and most learned men, respecting this phænomenon, were suddenly cut off; for being at Florence, he was attacked by a fever, which carried him off in 1494, aged only 33.

ANGELUS POLITIANUS.

This very learned man, whom we have had occasion to mention in the preceding memoir, was born in 1454, at

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Monte Pulciano, in Tuscany; and from the name of this town, in Latin, Mons Politianus, he derived his surname. His father was a doctor of the civil law, whose name was Benedictus de Ambroginis.

Politian had the advantage of Landino's instructions in the Latin language, and his preceptor in the Greek was Andronicus of Thessalonica. He also had the best masters in other branches of learning and philosophy; but in the early part of his life he devoted his attention chiefly to the muses, and preferred the gay and pleasing study of poesy to the discipline of the philosophical schools. The means of his education were furnished almost from his childhood by the illustrious family of the Medici at Florence, and he recommended him-

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self to the public notice, and the esteem of his patrons, by his poem entitled, " The Stanze," written in his fourteenth year. It is an unfinished performance; but though abandoned to neglect, and perhaps considered by him as a mere playful effort of childish genius, unworthy of subsequent revsial or completion, it has notwithstanding perpetuated the author's fame. The best Italian writers constantly speak of it in terms of the highest praise; and one of the most distinguished critics ranks this poem, unfinished as it is, amongst the most elegant compositions which Italian poesy can boast. As a refiner and improver of his vernacular tongue, the juvenile efforts of Politian appear to have resembled those of our own celebrated poet, Pope; and perhaps

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all circumstances considered, his success was not inferior. "It is matter of real astonishment," says an ingenious writer, "that at a time when those who had been longest exercised in the practice of versification, could not divest themselves of their antiquated rusticity, a youthful poet, who had scarcely begun to touch the lyre, should be able to leave them far behind."

On this occasion, Politian, writing in his native language, and expatiating in terms familiar to him, gives an unrestrained scope to his genius, which here stands displayed in all the rich, unpruned wildness of juvenile luxuriancy. A more convincing proof could scarcely have been given, either of an exuberant imagination, and a fancy, by nature

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romantically poetical, or of a mind stored, by observation, with a wonderful variety of adventitious and classical imagery. Richardson, in his celebrated work on painting, asserts that Politian's genius was of special assistance to the famous artist Raphael de Urbino in many of the exquisite productions of his sublime pencil.

At the age of eighteen, Politian produced his tragedy entitled "Orfeo," which was composed in the short space of two days, and amidst the tumultuous festivities of a court, for the entertainment of the Cardinal Gonzaga, and his train, before whom it was represented.

This piece is generally allowed to be the earliest effort towards a regular dramatic composition in the Italian language.

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About this time he had the honour to be appointed preceptor to the children of Lorenzo de Medici, a trust which he discharged with the highest credit to himself and advantage to his pupils. He had the happy art of making his instructions pleasant; and having engaged the affections of those under his care, he made them love learning by his example.

With the charge of superintending the education of his patron's children, he afterwards combined that of a public professor of the Greek and Latin languages in the University of Florence, and his lectures were attended by numerous disciples from all parts of Europe, and particularly from England. He lived on terms of the greatest intimacy and confidence with his generous benefactor,

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and his correspondence was eagerly courted and cherished by the lovers of learning in different countries. Of his friendship with the celebrated and virtuous nobleman, Picus, of Mirandula, we have had occasion to speak; and the amiable character of both appears to the greatest advantage, when it is considered, that notwithstanding the eminent talents of each, they were always disposed to ascribe to each other the superiority of mental talent. This is the pure and genuine friendship of exalted minds, which can alone spring from virtue and religion.

Politian died at Florence in 1494, aged only 41. His Latin and Italian poems are still held in high estimation; as also are his

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critical observations upon classic authors.

FABIUS URSINUS.

Letter from Angelus Politianus to Picus of Mirandula.

"I SINCERELY wish you had been of our party to day, at the table of Paulus Ursinus, who is a gentleman not only of distinguished military fame, but very fond of letters, and of the society of the learned. He has a child of the name of Fabius, a youth of eleven years of age, and of singular beauty and endowments. His fine auburn hair falls gracefully on his shoulders. He has an eye sparkling with intelligence, an open

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countenance, a person elegantly formed, and a most graceful carriage, which inclines a little to the military. When the party had taken their seats; this child was desired to accompany some persons of skill, in singing several airs set to music, which he did with so melodious a voice, that for my own part I listened with ecstacy. He afterwards recited an heroic poem in praise of my pupil Piero de Medici, of his own composing; for that it really was so, and not the work of another, (as I at first suspected), I had afterwards an opportunity of ascertaining by undoubtable evidence. And what kind of a composition do you think it was? Really such an one as I myself should not need to be ashamed of. His tones

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were not merely those proper to reading, nor altogether modulated as in singing; but formed by a pleasing inflection of voice between both. As the subject required, they were uniform or varied, with exact regard to connexion and pause: acute or grave: easy or emphatical: quick or slow: yet always correct, distinct, and agreeable. His action was neither indolent and unanimated, nor yet bold and forward. You would have vowed another little Roscius stood before you. He was suddenly requested to turn the verse into prose, and repeat the same thoughts unconfined by measure. Accordingly, after a short interval of consideration, he began again in a manner perfectly unassuming: and

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I was astonished to hear from his youthful lips, a flow of expression so select and appropriate, as the pen seldom supplies. Are you already surprized? you will be still more so with what followed. The boy had completed his task, and was ordered to take his food standing; for such is his constant custom. After the first remove, I was requested to propose subjects to him for epistolary composition, as many as I pleased: on which he was to dictate, extempore, to several amanuenses at once. I mentioned only five, not being willing to bear too hard upon the child, though he engagingly insisted on more. But the subjects which I selected on this occasion were of a nature so various and

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novel, and some of them so ludicrous, that I am convinced he could not have been previously prepared for them. Immediately five persons, with pens, ink, and paper, placed themselves in order, to write as he should dictate. The boy, standing in a conspicuous situation, fixes his eyes modestly upon the ground, and pauses a moment; then raising his head, dictates a few words to the person who sits highest; makes a sign to the second, and gives him instructions on a different subject: and proceeds in like manner with the rest, down to the lowest: then returning to the first, so fills up every chasm, and connects the suspended thread of his argument, that nothing appears discordant or disjointed; and

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at the same instant, who should have thought it! he finishes the five letters.

Afterwards we rode out to see the combatants in the giostra, or justs, and amongst them Piero de Medici my charge. On this occasion an accident happened that greatly discomposed me; but, on reflection, served to confirm me in the belief that this was no ordinary child. Young Fabius was carried by a beautiful and spirited palfrey, of which he is uncommonly fond: on this he bounded over the field, and roved about at pleasure; now urging it to full speed; and now wheeling about with as much speed as spirit. He happened to be near to me, listening with eagerness to my observations, which had deeply

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arrested his attention, when, on a sudden, his horse, stumbling against an impediment in the way, came down upon his young rider. The child uttered a shriek. The servants hastened with all speed, each eager to relieve him in this alarming crisis; one of whom, dismounting too precipitately, fractured his leg. All was alarm and confusion. For my own part, I remained stupified with horror. The father arrives, admonishes the child not to be alarmed; and the latter no sooner perceived him present, than, which I considered as a strong proof of a noble spirit, he entirely ceased all complaint and exclamation, and only requested they would proceed with gentleness and caution, lest the horse, in the violence of his efforts

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to rise, should injure him more severely. The girths were cut as the creature lay, and young Fabius was at length drawn from under him, and restored in safety to his trembling friends; but so bruised with the accident, that it became advisable to convey him directly home. For my own part, I found my spirits so much fluttered, that I left the spectacle, and came home also; scarcely able to persuade myself that the child was safe; and terrified almost to death with the impression which this alarming accident had made on my mind.

Such is one day's history of young Fabius Ursinus; who, if he lives to complete the measure of his days, (which God grant he may), and perseveres in the path of renown,

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as he has begun, will, I venture to predict, prove such a person as the present age glories in considering you: that is to say, one whom for his admirable qualities and attainments mankind must unite to venerate as something more than human. Farewell."

Of the further history of this surprising youth, it is to be lamented that we have no particulars.

HENRY, PRINCE OF WALES.

THIS virtuous and accomplished Prince, who was the delight and hope of the British nation, was the eldest son of James the Sixth, King of Scotland, and the first of that name King of England.

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He was born in the castle of Stirling, February 19, 1594, and his baptism was celebrated with uncommon splendour the sixth of September that year. On that occasion, Queen Elizabeth sent the Earl of Sussex as her representative; and the King of Denmark, the States of Holland, and the Dukes of Brunswick and Mecklenburg, likewise sent their Ambassadors to attend the ceremony.

The infant Prince being brought to the Queen's chamber, and laid in a stately bed, the Ambassadors entered the chamber; and the Countess of Mar, accompanied by many other ladies, took up the Prince and delivered him to the Duke of Lenox, who presented him to the Ambassadors.

The Earl of Sussex being first in rank, received him, and carried him in

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his arms to the chapel, the rest following in their order; after whom came the ladies of honour, the chief nurse, and others of inferior quality. Before them went the several lords of the court. Over the English Ambassador was carried a canopy, supported by four noblemen. On their entrance into the chapel, the King rose from his seat, and at the door of the choir, received the Ambassadors who were conducted to their places. The ceremony began by a sermon by one of the Chaplains; after which the Bishop of Aberdeen preached on the same subject in Latin. After this, the Bishop being prepared to administer the sacrament of baptism, the Earl of Sussex arose and followed the King, the rest proceeding in order to the place where the Bishop stood; the Duke of Lenox

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carrying the Prince in his arms, and having delivered him again to the Earl of Sussex, the Bishop baptised him by the names of Henry Frederick, which names were proclaimed aloud, by the sound of trumpets.

The ceremony being ended, the procession returned to the Prince's chamber, where he was crowned and created Prince and Great Steward of Scotland, and Lord of the Isles. A considerable number of knights were then made, and silver and gold coins distributed among the people. The ambassadors, with their train, and the noblemen present, were royally feasted and entertained for several days with plays and other public spectacles.

The chief care of the Prince's person was entrusted to the Countess of

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Mar; and though, owing to the severity of her temper, she did not show any indulgence to her illustrious charge, he always treated her with affection and reverence.

The nobleness of his mind very early displayed itself: for when he was but a little above five years of age, and a son of the Earl of Mar fell out with one of his Highness's pages and ill-used him, the Prince reproved him for it, saying, "I love you, because you are my Lord's son, and my cousin; but if you are not better natured and behaved, I will love this page better."

His courage and intrepidity were also as remarkable. Being asked very young, what instrument of music he liked best? he answered, a trum-

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pet, in the sound of which and of drums, and the firing of cannon, he took great delight.

He was scarcely seven years of age, when a boy of good courage, and a year older, falling by accident at blows with him, and exerting his whole strength and agility, his Highness not only had the superiority in the contest, when they were parted, but loved his antagonist the better for his spirit ever after.

While he was a child, he wept much less than most children usually do; and he made very light of bruises or falls. Having once hurt both his hands so that they bled, though the severity of the pain extorted some tears at first, he rose up with a smile, and dissembled what he suffered.

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Looking at another time upon some who were hunting a deer, and being asked whether he liked that sport, he answered, "Yes, but I love another kind of hunting better." And being asked again "what hunting that was," he replied, "hunting of thieves and rebels with brave men and horses."

He was hardly ten years of age, when being desirous of mounting a high mettled horse, his attendants endeavoured to dissuade him from the dangerous attempt, but he got up himself from the side of a bank, and spurred the animal to a full gallop, and having thoroughly exercised the horse, brought him back in a gentle pace, and dismounting, said, "how long shall I continue to be a child in your opinion?"

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His tutor was Mr. Adam Newton, a gentleman who was admirably qualified for the office by his skill in the languages, and acquaintance with all parts of solid and polite learning. Nor were the instructions of so able an instructor lost upon the royal pupil, whose capacity and application enabled him to make a rapid progress in every branch of useful knowledge. The Prince's early progress in learning appears from a Latin letter of his, written on his ninth birth-day to the King, in which he takes notice, that he had two years before begun to write to his Majesty, in order that he might be a judge what proficiency he had made in his studies. He adds, that since the King's departure, he had read over

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Terence's Heyra, the third book of Phædrus's Fables, and two books of Cicero's Select Epistles.

Soon after this his father succeeded to the throne of England, by the death of Queen Elizabeth, on which occasion we find the Prince congratulating his Majesty on that event, in a very sensible Latin letter, in which, among other things, he observes, "that if the weakness of his age would not permit him to do that service to his Majesty which he desired, he would most willingly perform what was in his power, by daily praying to God to give success to his government, and that he might administer it suitably to his own dignity and that of his ancestors, and to the expectations of all his countrymen."

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The feast of St. George being celebrated at Windsor on the 2d of July 1603, the Prince was invested with the Order of the Garter, on which occasion he was greatly admired by the whole court for his ready answers, dignified behaviour, and devout obedience at the altar.

The new year's gift which he presented to the King on the 1st of January following, was a Latin poem in hexameter verse, being the first of his offerings in that kind, and which he enclosed in a neat and modest epistle written in the same language.

As his Highness manifested a great inclination to be made acquainted with maritime concerns, orders were given to build a small vessel for

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his amusement. This vessel, which was twenty-eight feet in length, and twelve broad, being completed, and elegantly carved and painted, was brought up from Chatham to Whitehall, and was named by his Royal Highness, in the customary form, *The Disdain.*

In the summer of 1605, he accompanied his father to the University of Oxford, where the Prince was entered a member of Magdalen College, and was entertained in a very magnificent manner with plays and public disputations.

The discovery of the plot for blowing up the parliament house on the 5th of November, that year, when the King, Queen, Prince, and the great council of the nation, were to have been assembled,

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made so strong an impression of religious gratitude upon his Royal Highness, that in memory of his deliverance, he ever after attended divine service on Tuesday, that being the day of the week on which the plot was to have been executed.

About this time he received letters from that great monarch Henry IV. of France, who took great pleasure in his correspondence, and ordered his Ambassador to pay him particular marks of attention. The Ambassador, in one of his letters to France, observes of the Prince, "that none of his pleasures savour the least of a child. He is a particular lover of horses and what belongs to them; but is not fond of hunting; and when he goes to it, it is

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rather for the pleasure of galloping, than for that which the dogs afford him. He plays willingly at tennis, but this always with persons older than himself, as if he despised those of his own age. He studies two hours a day, and employs the rest of his time in handling the pike, or leaping, or shooting with the bow, or throwing the bar, or some other exercise of that kind; and he is never idle. He shows himself likewise very good-natured to his dependents, and supports their interests against any persons whatever; and pushes what he undertakes for them or others with such zeal as gives success to it. For, besides his exerting his whole strength to compass what he desires, he is already

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feared by those who have the management of public affairs."

The great modesty of the Prince is proved very agreeably in an answer which he wrote in his twelfth year to a letter sent to him by the Earl of Dunfermling, Chancellor of Scotland. That nobleman, who was an excellent scholar, and a good Latin poet, had written to him a letter highly complimentary of his talents, to which the Prince replied, that he "felt himself obliged for his kind letter, in which he had given a testimony of his affection, though less of his judgment. For with respect to those accomplishments which the Chancellor had attributed to him, his Highness was so far from thinking they ought to be ascribed

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to himself; that he thought an appeal might in this case justly lie from his lordship, how eminent soever he was as a lawyer and a judge, for having given a wrong judgment.

"But I am convinced," says the Prince, "that this judgment, whatever it is, proceeded from affection: I could not but congratulate myself upon this good natured mistake, and acknowledge myself indebted to you on that very account. I am not ignorant that the commendations of persons, who, like your lordship, preside in senates and courts of justice, are to be considered as exhortations to excite us to attempt every thing that is great and excellent. That I may some time or other do this, in order that your

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compliments may be thought to arise no less from judgment than affection, I shall sincerely pray the all-merciful God, to whom I heartily recommend the happy issue of my own concerns, and the prosperity of your lordship, and of the state."

At this early age he distinguished himself, also, as the liberal patron of letters and science. Numerous instances are recorded of his generosity to men of learning; and he never omitted to acknowledge in the handsomest manner the letters and books which they sent to him.

An ingenious person having one day presented to him a small poem, the Prince received it very graciously, and desired a gentleman who kept his privy purse to bestow on him some mark of his favour. The

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gentleman asking, whether a couple of angels (a coin then in current use) would not be sufficient? "Fie, for shame," answered his Highness, "give him at least ten angels."

The Prince's growing affection for the navy, which he considered as the main stay of the nation, led him, in the summer of 1608, to make a visit to the royal dock at Woolwich. Accordingly, on the 13th of August, he took his barge at Blackwall, and came to Woolwich about noon. He was received by the master builder, Mr. Pett, who conducted him round the dock, where his Highness was saluted by the discharge of thirty-one brass cannon. He then visited and carefully observed every part of a large ship, then building; after which he went on shore,

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and partook of an entertainment prepared at Mr. Pett's house.

That gentleman, for whom the Prince had a great regard, being sometime after involved in trouble, owing to the misrepresentations of some of his enemies, a court of inquiry was ordered to be held at Woolwich, whither the King, accompanied by the Prince, repaired to hear the cause. The persons who were appointed to decide the matter in dispute, having given their judgment in favour of Mr. Pett, the Prince, who had waited till the innocence of his friend was clearly proved, could not help exclaiming with honest indignation, "Where be now these perjured fellows, that dare thus to abuse his Majesty with these false informations? Do they not worthily deserve hanging?" And during the whole examination his Highness

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stood near Mr. Pett, to encourage him under his anxiety and fatigue; and when the King declared himself convinced of his innocence, the Prince raised him from his knees, and expressed his joy for the satisfaction which his father had that day received, protesting, that he would not only favour Mr. Pett for the future, but likewise take care to provide for him and his family while he lived.

In 1610, his Highness was solemnly inaugurated Prince of Wales, on which occasion several grand spectacles were exhibited, particularly one on the Thames, consisting of naval actions of ships of war and gallies, fighting with each other, and against a castle built in the water. These battles were followed by fireworks in the castle, and in all the ships and gallies, with-

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out the least accident to any person, though the river was covered with boats, and the banks with spectators.

The ship which the Prince had made several journeys to see, while it was building, was now finished, and ready to be launched, being the largest that ever had been built in England. The keel was one hundred and fourteen feet long, and the cross-beam forty-four feet. She was pierced for sixty-four guns, and the burden was fourteen hundred tons. The King having made a present of this ship to his Highness, went to Woolwich to see her launched, attended by the Queen, the Prince, the Duke of York, and a great number of the nobility. But the narrowness of the dock preventing the launch, his Majesty returned with the rest of the family, except his Highness,

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who staid some time behind them, in order to prepare for the launch the next morning, when he returned by three o'clock through a storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, and standing on the poop while the ship was launched, gave her the name of the *Prince Royal.*

His zeal to promote the interests of commerce and science was evinced by his employing an experienced navigator, Captain Button, on a voyage for the discovery of a north-west passage. Captain Button accordingly sailed in April 1612, on this expedition, having under his command two ships called the Resolution and Discovery, with which he sailed to the northward, but without attaining the object of his search. The reader, perhaps, will remark, that the same names were given to the two vessels which have since

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been immortalized by the discoveries of the celebrated Captain Cook.

While the Prince was thus giving proofs of his regard for the best interests of the nation, and gaining, by the whole of his demeanour, as well as by the uncommon force of his mind and virtues of his heart, the love of the people, his hitherto florid and healthy appearance began to change. He appeared pale and thin; he was troubled with fainting fits, head-ache, and unusual heaviness. These symptoms increased to an alarming degree, and carried him off, to the universal grief of the nation, November 6, 1612. His last illness, which was painful to a most excruciating degree, he bore with uncommon calmness and fortitude, and he yielded himself up to the will of the Almighty, in terms which indicated

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the habitual piety of his mind, and the firmness of his religious principles.

His remains were interred with great solemnity, being attended by about two thousand mourners in black, in the chapel of Henry the VIIth in Westminster Abbey.

On the twelfth of December his Highness's household was dissolved; on which occasion, his chaplain, Dr. Joseph Hall, afterwards Bishop of Norwich, preached a very pathetic sermon; in which, after speaking of the Prince as one "whose countenance was able to put life into any beholder," and "that he who was compounded of all loveliness, had infused an harmony into his whole family;" he concludes with this exhortation:—

"Go in peace, and live as those that have lost such a master; and

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as those that serve a master, whom they cannot lose."

The leading features of his character have already been given; yet a few more traits will be found not only pleasing, but profitable.

He had such an aversion to the profanation of God's name, that he was never once heard to take it in vain, though his father was too apt to be guilty of that fault.

When the Prince was once asked "why he did not swear at play as others did?" he answered, "that he knew no game worthy of an oath."

His Highness was once hunting the stag: it happened that the stag, being hard run, crossed a road, where a butcher and his dog were passing. The dog instantly set upon, and killed the stag, which was so large, that the

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Henry Prince of Wales
reproving his Courtiers

Pub. by R. Phillips, New Bridge St. 1806.

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butcher could not carry it away: when the huntsmen and company came up, they expressed great resentment, and endeavoured to incense the Prince against the butcher. But the Prince answered coolly; "What if the butcher's dog killed the stag; what could the butcher help it?" They replied, "that if his father had been so served, he would have sworn so as no man could have endured it."—"Away!" rejoined the Prince; "all the pleasure in the world is not worth an oath."

Though his liberality was great, and he was fond of magnificence, he restrained both within the bounds of frugality and moderation. He ordered to be set down in writing the several heads of all his annual charges, the ordinary expense of his house, and his

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stables; that of his apparel and wardrobe; his rewards, and every thing else that were to be issued regularly out of his coffers. These he compared with his income, and so judiciously proportioned them, by retrenching what he found superfluous, and adding what was wanting, that he reduced the whole to a certainty, such as his revenues would defray, besides a yearly saving to a considerable amount, which he reserved for occasional and contingent exigencies.

In short, his disposition and attainments were such, as to render his loss a public calamity: and the contemplation of his character, though a Prince, and the heir-apparent to a throne, will, if properly improved, be productive of advantage.

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NICHOLAS HARTSOCKER.

NICHOLAS HARTSOCKER was born at Gouda, a city in Holland, in the year 1656. His father was a clergyman; and, like many other parents, obliged his son to apply early to the studies which were fittest to qualify him for the station he himself filled; little dreaming that his views would be thwarted, as they were, by the stars and the planets, which little Hartsocker used to contemplate with the greatest pleasure and curiosity, both in the heavens, and in all the almanacks he could lay hold of.

When he was about thirteen years of age, he was told that it was impossible

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to understand such subjects without a knowledge of the mathematics; and finding his father utterly averse to his engaging in that branch of learning, he carefully saved as much as he could of the little money allowed him for his recreation, in order to be able to acquire it, if possible, with his own hands.

At length, thinking himself rich enough, he applied to a teacher of the mathematics, who promised to be very expeditious with his pupil, and he kept his word. However, our young student's savings were but just sufficient to procure him six months' teaching: and to make the most of so short a period, he sat up whole nights at his books, making no other use of his bedclothes, than that of covering the win-

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dows of his chamber, for fear the family should discover what he was about.

His master had some iron basons, in which he used to grind, with tolerable exactness, optic glasses of six feet focus, and young Hartsocker soon caught the method of performing the operation as well as his master. But this was only a prelude to his future successes in this way; for happening one day to present, merely by way of amusement, a small glass thread to the flame of a candle, and observing that the end of it contracted a globular form, he immediately recollected that a glass globe always magnified the objects placed in its focus; and having seen microscopes at Mr. Leuwenhoeck's, and observed their construction, he formed one for

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himself with the little globe which he had accidentally formed, and which had dropped of itself from the end of the thread. Having tried this upon a hair, he had the unspeakable satisfaction of finding it a good one, and that he could now make microscopes nearly for nothing.

He now pursued his inquiries and observations into the minutest objects of nature, and made numerous discoveries of animalcula, which had hitherto eluded the searches of the most inquisitive naturalists.

After spending some years at Leyden, where he studied the Belles Lettres, Greek, Philosophy, and Anatomy, he visited Amsterdam in 1672, where he resumed his microscopical observations with fresh ardour, and made new discoveries which recom-

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mended him to the acquaintance of the celebrated mathematician Mr. Huygens, who took him with him to Paris, where he was introduced to some of the greatest philosophers of the age, who were pleased with his acquaintance.

Mr. Hartsocker having observed that the telescopical glasses of the observatory at Paris were not large enough, however excellent in other respects, made one larger, and carried it to the great astronomer Mr. Cassini, who found that it was good for nothing: a second succeeded no better; but at last a third was pronounced to be tolerable. This uncommon instance of perseverance made Mr. Cassini foretel, that this young man, if he went on as he had begun, would do great things; and the pre-

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diction itself was, perhaps, the cause of its accomplishment; for nothing proves a greater incitement to praiseworthy pursuits, than the encouragement of the wise and good. Mr. Hartsocker, stimulated by the observation of Mr. Cassini, soon made good glasses of all sizes, and at length one of six hundred feet focus, which, on account of its rarity, he would never part with.

As a philosopher, he distinguished himself by his valuable Essay on Dioptricks, in which he demonstrates the theory of that science with great perspicuity, and narrates his several discoveries in a very agreeable manner. He afterwards published his Principles of Natural Philosophy; and two volumes of Philosophical Conjectures, in which he hazarded some fan-

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ciful opinions on the organization of man.

Though he was much courted by the great, and the most advantageous offers were made him by some princes, he chose rather to live a philosophical life, engaged in experimental inquiries. He died in 1725, leaving the character of a very ingenious, indefatigable, and worthy man.

THOMAS WILLIAMS MALKIN.

THOMAS WILLIAMS MALKIN, a child of extraordinary acquirements and promise, died at Hackney in Middlesex, July 31, 1802, aged six years and nine months.

With respect to this uncommon child, the extent of his attainments

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may excite surprize, and possibly in some minds the relation may raise no small portion of incredulity.

Yet we have well-authenticated accounts of juvenile proficiency; and in the present instance, there are many and most respectable witnesses to attest, that amiable dispositions and superior talents were never united in a more distinguished manner, than in the subject of this biographical sketch.

His knowledge of the English language was correct and copious, and his expression, whether in speaking or writing, was as remarkable for its fertility as for its selection. In the Latin, he had proceeded so far as to read with ease the more popular parts of Cicero's works. He had made some progress in French; and was so thorough a proficient in Geography, as not only

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to be able, when questioned, to particularize the situation of the principal countries, cities, rivers, &c. but to draw maps from memory, with a neatness and accuracy which would scarcely be credited, but by those who are in possession of the specimens.

Without any professional assistance, he had acquired considerable execution in the art of drawing; and in some of his copies from Raphael's heads, though wanting the precision of the students of the Academy, evinced a fellow feeling with the style and sentiment of the originals, which seemed likely, had he pursued it, to have ranked him with the more eminent professors of the art.

But the most striking feature in his character was a strength of intellect, and rapidity of comprehension on all subjects, independent of those to

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which his studies were immediately directed, which increasing with his growth, seemed likely in manhood to have placed more within his reach than it usually falls to the lot of humanity to attain. He united in a remarkable manner, the solid and the brilliant; for the powers of his memory kept pace with those of his understanding and imagination; and the character of his mind may be comprized in these few, but comprehensive words —that he remembered whatever he had once known, and could do whatever he had once seen done.

But it may not be uninteresting to particularize the periods of his short life, which the leading features of his character first presented to observation.

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He was familiar with the alphabet long before he could speak, not only as exhibited on counters, (a practice very judicious, because very enticing to children,) but as expressed in books, to which, from seeing them constantly about him, he showed a very early partiality.

At the age of three years, on his birth-day, he wrote his first letter to his mother; and though it contained nothing but short expressions of affection, he soon afterwards began to write in a style and on subjects to which children in general are total strangers; and this practice of writing his sentiments on all subjects he persevered in with a continually increasing expansion and improvement, both as to matter and manner, which we re-

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gret that our limits will not allow us to authenticate by specimens.

At the time of which we are speaking, three years old, he could not only read and spell with the greatest accuracy, but knew the Greek characters, and would have attempted that language, had not the caution of his parents, in this instance, discouraged the forwardness of his inclination. When he was five, he had made considerable advances in Latin, as well as in all the other studies, which he pursued so successfully for near two years longer. His study of Latin, in particular, was far removed from that mechanical routine by which scholars of more advanced age too frequently proceed. His comparison of the idiom and con-

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struction with those of his own and the French languages; his acuteness in tracing the etymology, and detecting the component parts of the words, hunting them through English and French, and inquiring the forms they assumed in Greek and Italian, with which he was unacquainted, proved that he possessed a mind peculiarly adapted for philological inquiries. Nor was his attention confined to words: he never passed over any passage, the style or subject of which was obscure or difficult, without such an explanation as satisfied his doubts: nor did he ever suffer errors of the press, even the trifling ones of punctuation, to escape, without detecting and correcting them with a pencil, which he kept for the purpose.

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Notwithstanding these studious inclinations, he was a child of manly corporeal structure, of unusual liveliness and activity. He was by no means grave and demure in his disposition, except when engaged in the pursuit of knowledge; from which, however, active sports were generally successful in detaching him: but the bane of all improvement, both of mind and body, indolence, and the habit of lounging, were totally excluded from the catalogue of his pleasures.

But as mere description, unassisted by anecdote, seldom conveys a lively and accurate idea of character; it will not be thought impertinent to mention an observation or two, which may serve to illustrate the turn of his mind. On being told

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by a lady that she would send for him the following day, when he should draw as much as he pleased, he said, "I wish to-morrow would come directly." After a short pause, he added, "Where can to-morrow be *now*? It must be somewhere; for every thing is in some place." After a little further reflection, he said, "Perhaps to-morrow is in the sun."

On meeting with the following aphorism, "Learning is not so much esteemed by wise men, as it is despised by fools;" he said, "I think the person who wrote that sentence was himself very foolish; for wise men esteem learning as much as possible, and fools cannot despise it more."

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But the most singular instance in which he displayed fertility of imagination, united with the power of making every thing he met with in books and conversation his own, was his invention of an imaginary country called Allestone, of which he considered himself as king. It resembled Utopia, though he had never read that celebrated political romance. Of this country he wrote the history, and drew a most curious and ingenious map, giving names of his own invention to the principal cities, mountains, rivers, &c. And as learning was always the object of his highest regard, he endowed it most liberally with universities, to which he appointed professors by name, with numerous sta-

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tutes and regulations, which would have reflected no disgrace on graver founders.

But though in the progress of his short life he was continually employed in laying up stores of knowledge, apparently for purposes which the event proved were never to be fulfilled; his last illness, which he supported with a patience and fortitude almost unexampled, amply evinced that he knew how to apply the treasures he had acquired to the solace and relief of his own mind, under circumstances of trial and suffering. He frequently beguiled the tedious hours of a sick-bed with the recollection of what he had read, seen, or done in the days of his health; and little points of interest or information, which might have been supposed to

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have made a transient impression, were as much present to his mind, as when they first engaged his attention.

When a blister had been applied to his stomach, he observed, that from the appearance of it; he supposed it corresponded with what he had seen called a cataplasm: and one day, when he was at the worst, he desired to know the meaning of the phrase, "a still-born child," which he had once seen in an inscription on a tomb-stone, though he said the inscription itself was too poor to be worth remembering. He often talked of the period of his recovery, but never with impatience; and the triumph of mind over body continued so complete to the last, that he looked with interest and pleasure at his dissected maps within half an hour of his dissolution.

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Without entering into unnecessary minuteness into the nature of his disorder, it will be interesting to parents in general to be informed, that it afforded no confirmation of the vulgar idea, that early expansion of intellect is unfavourable to the continuance of life. In consequence of the remarkable form of his head, which had been much admired, especially by artists, some doubts had been suggested, that rendered it desirable to have the head as well as body examined. From the result of this investigation it appeared, that the brain was unusually large, and in the most perfect and healthy state: that the disorder, as it was uniformly considered to have been, was in the stomach, and had received all the relief that medical skill and the most

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anxious attention could afford; and that there was more than ordinary probability, from the vigour of his constitution, and the well-proportioned formation of his body, of his arriving at manhood, but for one of those accidents in the system, to which the old and young, the healthy and infirm, are all equally exposed.

His illness lasted from the first to the thirty-first of July; a period which, under such severe sufferings none but a naturally strong patient could have endured. On the morning of the thirty-first, his medical friends, Dr. Lister and Mr. Toulmin, saw and conversed with him, as he with them, after their usual manner: and though they had given little or no encouragement for many

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days, they did not, on this last visit, such was the collected state of his mind and strength of his spirits, apprehend his dissolution to be so near. Soon after eleven o'clock he appeared much exhausted: his breathing became very difficult, and his voice, which through his illness had been strong and clear, began to faulter. Still, however, he was firm and composed, without the slightest appearance of dissatisfaction or alarm; he talked, at intervals, with the most perfect consistency, with his accustomed powers, and usual kindness for those about him, till he could no longer utter a sound. In a few minutes after he had ceased to articulate; and a little before twelve o'clock sunk without a struggle or a groan, exciting

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more admiration under circumstances from which human nature is apt to revolt, than when in the full career of mental and bodily improvement.

Thus ends this short history of a child, whose mind, though his years were few, seemed to have arrived at maturity. His powers of understanding, of memory, of imagination, were all remarkable; and the reasonableness of his mind was such, that he always yielded his own to the wishes of his friends, as much from conviction as compliance: his dispositions were as generous and amiable as his talents were brilliant and extensive: and there can be little doubt, that, in after-life, whether he had devoted the powers of his mind to the fine arts, to belles-lettres, or to the severer studies,

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his success would have placed him, in the estimation of the wise, whatever might have been his external condition, high in the catalogue of worthy and useful members of society.

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH.

It has justly been observed, that as art, never made a poet, so nothing but nature can make a painter. There must be a native inborn genius to give any person a pre-eminence in these exquisite graces and accomplishments. It is, however, pleasing and instructive to mark the early bursts of genius which indicate the turn of mind, and lead men to marked distinction, either as elegant writers or artists.

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Thomas Gainsborough, one of the most original painters ever produced in this, or any other country, was a native of Sudbury in Suffolk, and born in 1727.

He discovered very early a propensity to drawing. Nature was his teacher, and the woods of Suffolk his academy. Here he would pass his mornings in solitude, making a sketch of an antiquated tree, a marshy brook, a few cattle, a shepherd and his flock, or any other casual objects that were presented. His genius appeared confined to landscape scenery till accident furnished him with an opportunity of displaying his powers in representing the human countenance.

In the neighbourhood of his father lived a very respectable clergy-

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Young Gainsborough discovering a Robber.

Pub. by R. Phillips, New Bridge St. Aug. 1806.

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man of the name of Coyte. With the sons of this gentleman young Gainsborough passed much of his time, and from the instructions of Mr. Coyte received considerable advantage. In one of these visits, there happened a violent commotion in the family, on account of the clergyman's garden having been plundered of a very large quantity of wall-fruit, and much pains was taken, but without effect, to discover the thief.

Young Gainsborough having risen one summer morning at an early hour, walked into the garden to make a sketch of an old elm tree. He had seated himself in an obscure corner, and had just taken out his chalk to begin, when he observed a fellow's head peeping over the

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wall of the garden which was next the road, with an apparent intention of seeing whether the coast was clear. This changed the young artist's object, and instead of sketching the elm, he, in the few moments before he was observed, made a sketch upon the rough board of the head of the man; and so accurate was the resemblance, that he was immediately recognised to be the inhabitant of a neighbouring village; and upon close inquiry, he proved to be the very fellow who had robbed the garden.

This drawing was shown all about the place, and made young Gainsborough to be considered as a genius above the common standard. The young Coytes lent him their drawing books, and the boy show-

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ing extreme eagerness in this favourite pursuit, wandering through fields, meadows, and woods, in search of rural scenes, became the common talk of the neighbourhood; and there not being any person in the country who could properly instruct him in his studies, at the age of thirteen he was sent to London, where he made his first essays in art, by modelling figures of cows, horses, and dogs, in which he attained great excellence.

He soon afterwards became a pupil of Mr. Gravelot, under whose instruction he drew most of the ornaments which decorate the illustrious portraits, so admirably engraved by Houbraken.

But some of his first efforts were small landscapes, which he frequently

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sold to the picture dealers at trifling prices. He afterwards engaged in painting portraits, and acquired universal reputation. His portraits are calculated to give effect at a distance; and that effect is produced in so eminent a degree, that the picture may almost be mistaken for the original. But his greatest excellence lay in landscapes, animals, and figures, such as the rustic, shepherd's boy, woodman, and cottage girl, all of which he represented exactly according to nature.

His merit as a man was equal to his celebrity as an artist. He had a most feeling heart; and one of his strongest propensities was to relieve poverty wherever he found it to deserve a claim on his bounty. But his liberality was not confined to this, he sup-

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ported his indigent relatives and unfortunate friends, without showing any capricious partiality.

This worthy and ingenious man died in London, August 20, 1788, and his remains were interred the week following in the churchyard of Kew.

JOHN HENDERSON.

Of this celebrated young man, whose extraordinary acquirements attracted the notice and even commanded the respect of the great Dr. Johnson, several accounts have been published, and much eulogium has been pronounced. By many he has been supposed to have emulated the variety and extent of knowledge possessed by the admirable Crichton; and, like that ex-

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traordinary character, he has left but little for posterity to form a judgment of the truth of those praises which have been bestowed upon him.

He was born at Ballegarance, near Limerick, in the kingdom of Ireland, on the 27th of March 1757, of very pious and respectable parents.

He received his education in the school formed at Kingswood in Gloucestershire, by that celebrated character, Mr. John Wesley; and so rapid was his progress, that he actually became an assistant teacher in that seminary at the age of nine years.

One who had great opportunities of knowing him, says, that "his very infancy denoted something extraordinary and great. He was born, as it were, a thinking being; and was never known to cry, or to express any

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infantine peevishness. Those years which are spent in weakness, ignorance, and the misconceptions of the grossest senses, were marked by him with strong intelligence. The questions he asked, as soon as he was able to speak, astonished all who heard him; and showed that he came into the world rather to teach others, than to be taught by them. He might say, as the wise man did, "I was a witty child, and had a good spirit; yea, rather, being good, I came into a body undefiled. Nevertheless when I perceived that I could not otherwise obtain wisdom, except God gave her to me, (and that was a point of wisdom also, to know whose gift she was), I prayed unto the Lord, and besought him with my whole heart."—"For there is a spirit in man, and the inspi-

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ration of the Almighty giveth him understanding." This was the true and deep ground of this distinguished eminence.

"Whence then cometh wisdom, and where is the place of understanding? It is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept from the fowls of the air." Surely God has various ways of communicating knowledge to man, without waiting for the slow information of the outward senses. At that early period "he was wiser than the aged, he had more understanding than his teachers, because he kept the commandments of his God." He might say with young Samuel, and perhaps at an earlier period, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth."

From Kingswood school he removed to the newly-instituted college,

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erected at Trevecka, in South Wales, by the late Countess of Huntingdon, for the instruction of persons designed for the ministry. There young Henderson, at the age of twelve, bore an active and important part in conducting the academical pursuits of the students. Many of the lay-preachers among the Methodists entered into this seminary for the purpose of attaining some knowledge of the learned languages, and of theology. From this it appears that elegant or comprehensive learning did not come within the plan of the institution. But we here observe something more deserving of our admiration, and that is a boy, at an age usually occupying the lower forms in schools, employed in teaching men the Latin and Greek languages.

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At this college, however, he did not remain long; for some differences about religious opinions occasioned a separation, and young Henderson returned home to his father, who kept a boarding school at Hanham near Bristol.

Here he entered upon the useful but laborious occupation of instructing the boys in writing and arithmetic, for no higher were the pretensions of this respectable academy. It was, indeed, highly respectable; for so amiable, pious, benevolent, and assiduous was the father; so good-natured, active, and playful was the son, that the scholars could not but be fond of their studies and their situation.

Severity was unknown in the school at Hanham; and punishment was seldom needed; and when it was abso-

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lutely necessary, it was administered with a fatherly care and reluctance.

The short distance of Hanham from Bristol was of essential service to young Henderson, in enabling him to gratify his thirst for learning of every kind. In that city he experienced disinterested friendship, solid assistance in his studies, and at length a generous and learned patron, who placed him, at his own expense, in the seat of the muses.

One of his most intimate friends was a worthy and ingenious physician, which intimacy led him to the study of anatomy, and the theory of medicine. In the practice of physic, Mr. Henderson approved himself abundantly successful, though he never gave his medical assistance but from charitable motives.

The range of his literary inquiries

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was extremely large and various; and he deemed nothing beneath his observation, by which the mind might be improved.

In the languages and the sciences he was familiar; and the most abstruse subjects of human inquiry were perfectly easy to him.

His powers of conversation were uncommonly great, and no person could depart from his company without surprize at his attainments, and esteem for his modesty. He spoke Latin with great fluency and elegance; and his remarks on classical obscurities astonished those who were critics by profession.

Such were his qualifications at the age of twenty-three, when neither his studies, his thoughts, or connections, were directed to any particular pro-

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fession, an unfortunate circumstance, which prevented his being useful to mankind.

His friends, indeed, were extremely solicitous for his welfare; and, from their regard for his various merits, wished to see him placed in some respectable situation. At this period his father gave up his school, and converted his house into an asylum for lunatics. He conceived, and so did his friends, that his son's abilities would have been of great service to him in this undertaking.

But herein they were disappointed; for though no one was more disposed to do good, nor any person less inclined to dissipation than he was, yet he could not be brought to confine himself to one object.

In 1780, Dr. Tucker, Dean of

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Gloucester, who greatly respected him, offered to send him at his own expense to the University of Oxford. This generous proposition was gratefully accepted, and young Henderson was admitted a member of Pembroke College, and thus opened to new connections, and more extensive reputation.

At his first admission into this society, the singularity of his dress, and the formality of his manner, excited some degree of ridicule; but the richness of his intellect, and the urbanity of his temper, soon removed these unfavourable impressions, and no person in the University was more universally courted and respected than John Henderson.

Of his academical pursuits, little can be said; for what others go to learn, he carried with him. He might in-

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deed make improvements there on what he had previously acquired, but the foundations of knowledge were already deeply laid, and that at a period when other young men are but just gaining the rudiments of learning.

It is, however, to be lamented that this extraordinary young man was contented with studying for himself alone; and though so amply endowed with those mental riches which would have enabled him to shine in any profession, he applied to none. It was the intention of his patron, and the general desire of all his friends, that he should embrace the ecclesiastical state, for which he was admirably fitted by his general studies, and by the piety and benevolence of his disposition.

Unhappily, however, he wanted

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steadiness, and could never fix to any certain point.

Thus his extensive acquirements and wonderful powers, from the want of a proper direction, withered away within the narrow circle of academic acquaintance. They excited, it is true, very general admiration, but they rendered no benefit to society.

Many persons of great learning, and some in elevated life, visited Oxford for the purpose of obtaining his acquaintance. The reports which they had heard of him were more than confirmed by their own observation; and, while they admired, they wished to be of service to him. Very advantageous offers were made to him, but he declined them all; and was contented with the situation in which he was placed, and the circle of select

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friends which his merits and virtues had contributed to form.

At length a change was observed in his appearance; and some apprehensions were entertained by himself that his dissolution was not far distant. Some months before that event happened, he said to a young person whom he had relieved from a threatening consumption, by his prescriptions, "My dear friend, your cure, in all human probability, is now certain, and you will live; but I shall die. Remember, to be pious is to be happy; and to practise the moral virtues, is to become great."

Under the impression of this prospect, he appeared to abstract himself more and more from the world, from company, and from conversation. "He seemed to withdraw himself from mor-

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tals (says one who witnessed his concluding days), as he was soon to converse with higher beings."

The same worthy friend says of him, "He was a meek sufferer through this world of misery; a sincere and contrite penitent for time mis-spent, and talents misapplied; a humble believer in Christ his Saviour. I saw him in his last sufferings; I heard his last words; he languished under weakness extreme; he laboured under most grievous pains; he was wonderfully patient and resigned; for he knew in whom he believed, and his hope was full of immortality. He prayed with uncommon fervour to his good God, even to Jesus Christ, in whom all his hopes were placed, and 'without whom,' said he, 'Heaven would be no Heaven for me.' Death was the

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wished for messenger whom he earnestly expected. Three days before that awful event, his pulse ceased to beat, and the sight of his eyes went from him; the last struggle is over; the bitterness of death is past. There was a humble dignity and composure in that hour of trial, worthy the man and the Christian. "Let me die the death of the righteous; and let my last end be like his."

He left this world for a better, the 2d day of November 1788, and his remains were buried in St. George's church, Kingswood, amid the tears of numbers, who, knowing his worth, attended to pay him their last respects.

Such was John Henderson, whose life presents this instructive lesson, that uncommon attainments, even though accompanied with great mo-

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ral virtue, are gifts sent by Heaven to be usefully employed in the service of society.

ALEXANDER POPE.

Among those who have discovered a very early indication of great talents, the mature age of many has not answered the promising expectations of their youth; but extraordinary as the powers of Pope appeared, even in his juvenile essays, he continued to improve during the greater part of his literary career, and he will ever rank as one of the first of modern poets, whether of this or any other country.

At the birth of our author in 1688, his parents were engaged in business in London, where they resided, till

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he was nearly twelve years of age; when they removed to Binfield near Windsor. He was taught to read very early by an aunt, and he learned to write without any assistance, by copying printed books, which he executed with great neatness and exactness.

At eight years of age, he was placed under the tuition of one Taverner, a priest of the Romish persuasion, his family being of that religion. This instructor taught him the rudiments of the Latin and Greek languages together. He imbibed these elements of classical learning with the greatest facility; and the first sight of the poets discovered at once both the peculiar bent of his inclination and the excellency of his genius. He has himself declared, that the time of

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his beginning to write verses was so very early in life, that he could scarcely recall it to his memory. When he was but a child, his father would frequently set him to make English verses. It seems the old gentleman was difficult to be pleased, and would oblige the lad to correct them again and again: and when at last he approved them, he took great pleasure in the perusal, saying, "these are good rhymes." These early praises of a tender and respected parent, co-operating with the natural inclinations of the son, may possibly be the causes that fixed our young bard in the resolution of becoming eminent in the art of poesy.

About this time, accidentally meeting with Ogilby's translation of Homer, he was so much struck with the force of the story, that notwithstand-

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ing the insipidity of the versification, Ogilby became a favourite book. Ovid's Metamorphoses, translated by Sandys, next fell in his way; the perusal of which yielded him so much pleasure, that he spoke of it with delight all his life after.

From his private tutor, he was sent to a school at Twyford, near Winchester, whence he was removed to another at Hyde Park Corner. He was now about ten years of age, and being sometimes taken to the play-house, the sight of theatrical representations afforded him so much delight, that he turned the principal events in Homer's Iliad into a kind of play, made up of a number of speeches from Ogilby's translation, connected by verses of his own composition. He persuaded the upper boys to act this piece; and the

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master's gardener performed the part of Ajax.

In the mean time, however, he was so unfortunate as to lose, under his two last masters, a great part of what he had learned from the first.

At the age of twelve years, he retired with his parents to Binfield, in Windsor Forest, where his father had purchased a small estate. Here our poet was placed under another priest, of whom he learnt only to construe a little of Tully's Offices. Dissatisfied with his instructor, young Pope resolved to be his own master. He accordingly formed a plan of study for himself, which he completed with little other incitement, than the desire of excellence.

His primary and principal purpose was to be a poet; and he accordingly

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read with avidity the writings of Spenser, Waller, and Dryden; but on the first sight of Dryden, he abandoned the rest, and resolved to make that writer his model. So great, indeed, was his veneration for his instructor, that he persuaded his friends to take him to the coffee-house which Dryden frequented, and pleased himself greatly with having only seen that illustrious poet. Dryden died in 1701, before Pope had attained his twelfth year; so early must he, therefore, have felt the power of harmony and the zeal of genius. Who does not wish that Dryden could have known the value of the homage that was paid him, and have foreseen the greatness of his young admirer?

The earliest of Pope's productions is his "Ode to Solitude," which is a plea-

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sing little piece, written before the author was twelve years old. His time was now wholly engrossed in reading and writing. As he read the classics, he amused himself with translating them; and at fourteen he made a version of the first book of "The Thebais of Statius," which, with some revision, he afterwards published. If he had no assistance, he must have been a considerable proficient in the Latin tongue. By "Dryden's Fables," he was tempted to try his own skill in giving Chaucer a more fashionable appearance; and accordingly he turned some of his antiquated tales into modern English and polished versification. He likewise translated the "Epistle of Sappho to Phaon," from Ovid; and wrote some other small pieces, which were afterwards printed. He sometimes imi-

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tated the English poets, and professed to have written at fourteen his poem upon Silence, after Rochester's "Nothing."

He had now formed his versification, and the smoothness of his numbers surpassed the original: but this is a small part of his praise; he discovers such an acquaintance both with human and public affairs, as is not easily conceived to have been attainable by a boy of fourteen, in his "Poem on Windsor Forest."

The next year he was desirous of opening to himself new sources of knowledge, by becoming acquainted with modern languages; and he accordingly removed to London, that he might study French and Italian, which, as he desired nothing more

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than to read them, were, by diligent application, soon accomplished.

He then returned to Binfield, and delighted himself with his own poetry, trying his genius in various styles of composition, and on many subjects. He wrote a comedy, a tragedy, and an epic poem; thinking, as he himself confesses, that he was the greatest genius of his age. Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings. He, indeed, who forms an opinion of himself in solitude, without knowing the powers of other men, is very liable to error; but it was the felicity of Pope to rate himself at his real value. Most of his puerile productions were, by his maturer judgment, afterwards destroyed. "Alcander," the epic poem, was burnt by

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the persuasion of Bishop Atterbury. The tragedy was founded on the legendary tale of St. Genevieve; and of the comedy we have no account. Concerning his other studies, it is related that he translated Tully "On Old Age"; and that, besides books of poetry and criticism, he read Temple's "Essays," and Locke "On Human Understanding." His reading, though his favourite authors are not known, appears to have been sufficiently extensive; for his early pieces show, with sufficient evidence, his knowledge of books.

Before he was sixteen, he was introduced to Sir William Trumbull, a statesman of eminence, who resided near Binfield. That gentleman was so pleased with his young visitor, that he became his most zealous and

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intimate friend. Such a connection, between sixty and sixteen, is not very common; and the circumstance reflects, in this instance, equal honour on both parties. Age is generally cautious and reserved with respect to the literary pretensions of youth; and young persons are but too apt to slight, if not despise, the salutary counsels and friendly converse of their elders. Mr. Pope wisely knew how to value and cherish the acquaintance of persons more advanced in the world and experienced than himself; and his intimacy and correspondence with Sir William only ended with that gentleman's life.

Another early and valuable friend of our author was Mr. Walsh, gentleman of the horse to Queen Anne, and the author of several ingenious pieces in prose and verse. By his advice Mr.

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Pope profited considerably, especially in that attention to correctness in poetical composition, which had been universally neglected by English poets.

At the age of sixteen, Pope wrote pastorals, which were shown to the most eminent critics of the age, by whom they were read, as they well deserved, with admiration, and many praises were bestowed upon them and the preface, which is both elegant and learned in a high degree.

Before he was twenty, he produced his "Essay on Criticism," which may safely be pronounced his master-piece. The excellence of the poem, and the youth of the author, filled every person with amazement. So great a knowledge of the world, with such maturity of judgment and penetration into

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human nature are therein displayed, that the acutest critics of the age could hardly account for the literary phænomenon. The greatest geniuses in painting, as well as poesy, are generally observed not to have produced any considerable works till the age of thirty; whereas this admirable performance was written almost before the author had attained to manhood. To account for this, however, it has been judiciously observed, that to great delicacy of constitution were added a strict purity of manners and temperature of life in Mr. Pope, which preserved him from that dissipation which too frequently injures genius and corrupts the judgment.

From this period the poet went on in his literary career, continuing to gather new laurels, and to acquire the

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most powerful friends. His works have been the delight of other nations, as well as of his own; and his translation of Homer may be justly said to have given new beauties to the Prince of poets.

Mr. Pope died in 1744, and was buried at Twickenham, in the same vault with his parents, to whose memory he had erected a monument.

JAMES FERGUSON.

THIS eminent experimental philosopher, mechanic, and astronomer, was born of poor parents at Keith, a small village in Bamffshire, in Scotland, in the year 1710.

His extraordinary genius began to expand itself at a very early age. He

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learned to read before any suspicion was entertained of his acquirement, by listening to the instructions which his father gave to his elder brother, and by applying to a neighbouring old woman for assistance, when any difficulties occurred.

When his father had, to his agreeable surprize, discovered the progress, which, by these means, he had made, he gave him such farther instructions as were in his power, and then taught him to write. Afterwards he sent him for about three months to the grammar-school at Keith. When James Ferguson was only about seven or eight years of age, he began to conceive a taste for mechanics, by reflecting on the use which he saw his father make of a lever in raising the roof of his house, which wanted repairs. He

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soon brought himself to understand the principles of that mechanical power; and immediately afterwards his genius suggested to him the advantages which would arise from converting it into the form of a wheel and axle.

By means of a turning lathe, belonging to his father, and a little knife, he constructed such machines as answered his purpose in illustrating these advantages; and, imagining that he had made an original discovery, he wrote a short account of them, accompanied with figures, sketched out by his pen, over which he exulted with not a little complacency. But upon showing this account to a gentleman in the neighbourhood, he found that his supposed discovery had been familiar to the world long before he was born, and he was convinced of it by

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reference to a printed book on mechanics. Notwithstanding that his pleasure received considerable alloy from this information, he had still the satisfaction of finding that his account, as far as he had carried it, agreed perfectly with the principles of mechanics laid down in the printed book. From this time he possessed a strong propensity to improve in his acquaintance with that science. As his father, however, could not afford to maintain him while employed only in such pursuits, he was placed out with a neighbour, to tend his sheep, in which employment he continued some years. During this time he began to study astronomy, devoting a considerable part of the night to the contemplation of the stars, while he amused himself in the daytime with constructing models of spin-

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ning wheels, mills, and such other pieces of machinery as he happened to see.

He was afterwards placed as a servant to a farmer, who treated him with great kindness, and encouraged him to go on with his astronomical studies, often working for him himself in his ordinary business, that the lad might be enabled to make fair copies in the day-time, of the observations which he had made, and marked down on paper during the night relative to the apparent distances of particular stars from each other, according to their respective positions.

The observatory of young Ferguson was the open field, in which he lay down on his back, with a blanket wrapped about him; and his only in-

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strument was a thread with small beads strung upon it, which he stretched at arm's length between his eye and the stars, sliding the beads till they hid the particular stars from his eye.

Through the kindness of this master also, he obtained the patronage and assistance of some neighbouring gentlemen; one of whom, when the time of his servitude had expired, took him to his house, where his butler, who was a man of extraordinary abilities and acquirements, taught him decimal arithmetic, with some algebra, and began likewise to instruct him in the elements of geometry.

Ferguson had before learnt vulgar arithmetic himself, by the help of books.

To his inexpressible grief, he lost his tutor just as he had entered upon the

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study of geometry, and upon that melancholy event, he returned home to his father.

His benevolent tutor had bestowed upon him a present of Gordon's Geographical Grammar. From the description of the globes and their use, contained in that book, without any figure, he made a globe in three weeks at his father's house, which he turned out of a piece of wood, covered it with paper, and delineated upon it a map of the world; he then added the meridian ring, and horizon, covered them with paper, and graduated them; and he had the happiness to find that he could solve the common problems of geography by this instrument, which was the first of the kind he ever saw.

But his father's narrow circumstances again obliged him to seek a livelihood

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by service, which he entered into at first with a miller, and afterwards with a farmer; from both of whom he received such harsh treatment and ill-usage, that his health was greatly impaired, and he was for some time rendered incapable of enduring any laborious exertion. To amuse himself while he was in this weak state, he made a wooden clock, which went tolerably well, and then a wooden watch, after having been once shown the inside of such a piece of mechanism.

The ingenuity which these works displayed, now obtained for him farther countenance and encouragement from some of the neighbouring gentry, who employed him in cleaning clocks, and in drawing patterns for ladies' needle-work; by which means he got

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so much money, that he began to think himself growing very rich, and had the pleasure of occasionally supplying the wants of his father.

Having discovered by the copies which he took, with pen and ink, of some prints and pictures, that he possessed a taste for drawing, some of his friends and patrons made attempts to have him brought up to the profession of a painter; but the money requisite for that purpose was more than, by their solicitations on his behalf, they were able to procure.

Having received, however, some instructions for drawing with pencils, he was encouraged to apply himself to the drawing of portraits from the life, on vellum, with Indian ink.

In this art he soon acquired a great facility, and had as much employment

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as he could possibly manage, so that it became his principal support for many years, while he was pursuing more serious studies.

After staying some years longer in Scotland, he came to London in 1743, with letters of recommendation to many scientific persons, from whom he experienced much kindness, and was introduced to the Royal Society. He afterwards read lectures in experimental philosophy, with great reputation, and published several works of considerable merit, particularly his "Astronomy Explained, upon Sir Isaac Newton's Principles," which has passed through several editions, in quarto and octavo. Mr. Ferguson's merits and celebrity occasioned his being introduced to his present Majesty, when Prince of Wales, who heard lectures from

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him, and on coming to the throne, settled upon him a pension. He was also chosen a fellow of the Royal Society, with the uncommon favour of being excused the payment of the admission fee, and the usual annual contributions.

Mr. Ferguson was a man of mild, unassuming manners; benevolent, meek, humble, and courteous; and his whole life was an example of resignation and christian piety. It is also said of him, "that philosophy seemed to produce in him only diffidence and urbanity, a love for mankind and for his Maker." Mr. Ferguson died in the year 1776.

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HORATIO NELSON.

It is pleasing to trace the early proofs of an heroic and adventurous spirit, which springing up spontaneously by its own vigour, at length acquires universal renown, and renders the possessor the darling of his country.

Few names in the naval annals of this great empire will rank on the same scale with the illustrious Nelson. In valour and judgment none excelled him; in humanity to his enemies, and benevolence to his people, he was particularly distinguished; in the number and magnitude of actions wherein he was engaged, he appears to have been unequalled; and in the glory which at-

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tended his fall, he stands without a rival.

He was the son of a clergyman in Norfolk, and was born at the rectory of Burnham Thorp, in that county, in 1758.

In the tender years of infancy he doubtless exhibited to the eye of an observant parent many traits of that intrepidity of disposition which in after-life formed the most conspicuous part of his character. But of these few are recollected, or at least few have been related. The following anecdote has, however, been preserved. Being on a visit, when a child, at his grandfather's, he one day went out a bird's-nesting with a companion of nearly the same age as himself. The hour of dinner arrived, but Horatio was missing. The old lady became

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alarmed, and dispatched messengers in different directions to search for him. The young fugitives were at length discovered under a hedge, counting over the spoils of the day. When conducted home, Horatio's grandmother began to scold him for being absent without permission, and concluded with saying, "I wonder fear did not drive you home." To which he replied, "Madam, I never saw fear."

Our young hero did not receive a finished education; but what he wanted in learning he made up afterwards, by natural good sense and talents aided by early experience and deep reflection.

In 1770, being then twelve years of age, he was taken from school by his uncle Captain Suckling, who made him midshipman on board his own ship the Raisonable, of 64 guns.

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To face p. 280.

The early firmness of Horatio Nelson.

Pub. by R. Phillips, New Bridge St. Aug. 1806.

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He afterwards went to the West Indies in a merchant-ship, whereby he acquired an aversion to the Royal Navy. But his uncle took pains to conquer this unreasonable prejudice, and young Horatio resumed his former station, in which he became an excellent seaman, and had the command of the long-boat.

Early in 1773, two vessels were fitted out by government for a voyage of discovery towards the north-pole. The object of this expedition was to ascertain how far it was possible to sail in that direction to decide the long-agitated question concerning the practicability of a north-east passage to the Pacific Ocean, and to make besides such astronomical observations, as might prove beneficial to navigation.

The Race-horse and Carcase bomb-

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vessels were fitted out for this hazardous voyage; the command of the former was given to Captain Phipps, afterwards Lord Mulgrave, and of the latter to Captain, since Admiral Lutwidge. A voyage in which much was to be seen and learned, excited the curiosity and ardent spirit of young Nelson, and filled him with an irresistible desire to share in it. The dangers they were likely to endure only served to stimulate him the more; and though positive orders had been given that no boys should be admitted on board, yet he was so earnest in his solicitations, that Captain Lutwidge granted his request, and received him on board his ship.

They sailed on the 2d of June, and, during the voyage, our young seaman conducted himself in such a

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manner as to obtain the particular notice of Captain Phipps, who formed a high opinion of his character. On the 31st of July, the two vessels were in a most perilous situation off the Seven Islands, lying to the north of Spitzbergen, in latitude 80 degrees, 14 minutes.

Here the two ships were becalmed in a vast bason, surrounded on all sides by islands of ice of various forms: the weather clear, the sun gliding over the circumambient ice, which was low, smooth, and even, covered with snow, excepting where the pools of water on part of the surface appeared crystalline with the new-formed ice: the small space of sea in which they were confined was perfectly smooth. After fruitless attempts to force a way through the fields of ice, their limits

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were perpetually contracted by its closing, till at length each vessel became immoveably fixed. The smooth extent of surface was soon lost: the pressure of the pieces of ice by the violence of the swell caused them to gather in heaps; fragment rose upon fragment, till in many places they were higher than the main-yard. The movements of the vessels were tremendous and involuntary, in conjunction with the surrounding ice, agitated by the currents. The water shoaled to fourteen fathoms. The grounding of the ice or of the ships would have been equally fatal: as the force of the ice might have crushed them to atoms, or have lifted them out of the water, and overset them; or have left them suspended on the summits of the pieces of ice at a tremendous height, exposed to the fury of

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the winds, or to the risk of being dashed in pieces by the failure of their frozen dock.

It was in a similar situation that Sir Hugh Willoughby, an enterprizing English navigator, perished, with all his crew, in 1553.

———Miserable they!
Who, here entangled in the gathering ice,
Take their last look of the descending sun;
While, full of death, and fierce with tenfold frost,
The long long night, incumbent o'er their heads,
Falls horrible. Such was the Briton's fate,
As with first prow (what have not Britons dar'd?)
He for the passage sought, attempted since
So much in vain, and seeming to be shut
By jealous Nature with eternal bars;
In these fell regions, in Arzina caught,
And to the stony deep his idle ship
Immediate seal'd, he with his hapless crew
Each full exerted at his several task,
Froze into statues; to the cordage glued
The sailor, and the pilot to the helm.

THOMSON.

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In this dilemma, the ship's companies endeavoured to cut a passage to the westward, by sawing through immense fields of ice, but with so little success, that their utmost efforts, for a whole day, could not move the vessels more than three hundred yards.

In this dreadful state they remained nearly five days, during which young Nelson, whose active spirit rose superior to all danger, obtained, after repeated solicitations, the command of a four-oared cutter, with twelve men, for the purpose of exploring channels, and breaking the ice. On the 10th of August, a brisk wind springing up, effected their deliverance from this precarious situation, and Captain Phipps finding it impracticable to penetrate farther to the northward, returned to the harbour of Smee-

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renberg, on the coast of Spitzbergen.

The coolness and courage of our young hero amid these dreadful scenes appears to the greatest advantage, from the following anecdote.

During one of the nights, which in those latitudes are generally clear, Horatio, notwithstanding the intense bitterness of the cold, was missing from the ship.

Immediate search was made after him, but in vain, and every person on board gave him up for lost. When the rays of the rising sun illumined the horizon, he was discovered by the astonished crew at a considerable distance, armed with a single musket, in eager pursuit of a prodigiously large bear. The lock being injured, his piece would not go off, and he pur-

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sued the shaggy animal till he had tired him, and knocked him on the head with the butt end of his musket. Being reprimanded by Captain Lutwidge on his return, for quitting the ship, and asked in a severe tone, what motive could induce him to attempt such a rash undertaking, the young hero replied, with great simplicity, "I wished, Sir, to get the skin for my father!" So great was his courage, and so affectionate were his sentiments for his worthy parent; to whom, in all the succeeding periods of his life, this illustrious man ever showed the most dutiful attentions. Of the subsequent events of Nelson's history, it is impossible here to speak. They are indelibly engraved in the grateful remembrance of his country; they will form some of her

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proudest trophies of her glory; and will be held up for ever as examples, that every "Englishman may learn to do his duty."

JOHN MILTON.

THIS great poet, in many respects the successful rival of Homer and Virgil, was the son of a scrivener in Bread Street, London, where he was born, December 9, 1608. He was trained up with great care in virtue and piety from his infancy by his parents, who had a private tutor at home to instruct him in the first rudiments of learning; but he was put afterwards by them under the care of Mr. Alexander Gill, master of St. Paul's school. Here he applied with so much industry to his

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learning, that he considerably impaired his constitution; but he made an extraordinary progress, and gave some early specimens of an admirable genius for poetry. At the age of seventeen he was admitted Sizar of Christ's College, in Cambridge, under the tuition of Mr. William Chappel. He neglected no part of academical learning; but his chief delight was in exercising and improving his poetical talents. His juvenile poems might serve as a sufficient proof of this assertion; but it gives a further satisfaction to hear him declare it particularly in this manner: "I had my time", says he, "as others have, who have good learning bestowed upon them, to be sent to those places where the opinion was it might be soonest attained, and as the manner is, was not unstudied in those

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authors which are most commended: whereof some were grave orators and historians, whose matter methought I loved indeed; but as my age then was I understood them. Others were the smooth elegiac poets, whereof the schools are not scarce, whom both for the pleasing sound of their numerous writings, which *in imitation I found not easy, and most agreeable to nature's part in me;* and for their matter, which what it is there be few who know not, I was so allured to read, that no recreation came to be better welcomed."

In 1628, he took his degree of bachelor of arts, the exercise for which he performed with great applause. It was the design of his father that he should enter into holy orders, and he had no other intention himself till af-

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ter this time, when his ardent love of the muses induced him to dedicate his future life and labours entirely to the service of poesy. One of his friends having written him a long letter, pressing him to enter into the sacred ministry, he replied in an epistle equally long, modestly excusing himself, on account of the great weight of the office, and his devotedness to a sedentary life. This letter contains a neat sonnet, which, as affording a correct picture of his person and mind at that period, we shall transcribe :

How soon hath time, the subtle thief of youth,
Stolne on his wing my three-and-twentieth yéare!
My hasting days fly on with full careere,
But my late spring no bud or blossom sheweth.
Perhaps my semblance might deceive the truth,
That I to manhood am arriv'd so neare,
And inward ripeness doth much lesse appear,
That some more tymely happie spirit indu'th;

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Yet be it less or more, or soon or slow;
It shall be still in strictest measure even
To that same lot, however mean or high,
Towards which tyme leads me, and the will of heav'n;
All is, if I have grace to use it so,
As ever in my great Task-master's eye.

Hence it is evident that modesty and diffidence were the leading features of his mind; and with respect to his person, we learn from it that he was exceedingly handsome. The last particular is confirmed by the various pictures of him which are extant; and it is asserted also, that when at Cambridge, he generally passed by the appellation of the *Lady of Christ's College.* But his mental endowments and virtues were infinitely superior to the elegance of his person.

In 1632, he took the degree of master of arts, and having spent as much

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time in the university as was necessary for one who did not mean to engage in any of the learned professions, he left college, greatly regretted by his acquaintance. On quitting the university, he went to live with his father, who, having acquired a competent fortune, had settled at Horton, near Colnbrooke, in Buckinghamshire. His parents received him with unabated affection, notwithstanding his having thwarted their purposes by not entering into holy orders. The leisure with which they indulged him in this retirement, he employed in enriching his mind with the best stores of the Grecian and Roman learning, drawn from the best authors in each language; constantly attending to poetry, where his heart lay, for the sake and service of which chiefly it was

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that these treasures were collected. And the poems entitled *Comus, L'Allegro, Il Penseroso,* and *Lycidas,* all written at this time, were such as alone, had he never performed any thing else, would have transmitted his fame to the latest posterity.

In 1638, he set out on his travels, and having passed through France, he went over most part of Italy, being wonderfully admired for his admirable talents by men of genius in every place, many of whom wrote verses in his praise. One of the most remarkable of these was the following distich, by Salvaggi, at Rome:

Græcia Mæonidem, jactet sibi Roma Maronem:
Anglia Miltonum, jactat utrique parem.

Of which Mr. Dryden's celebrated epigram, constantly prefixed to Para-

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dise Lost, is little more than a translation :

> Three poets in three distant ages born,
> Greece, Italy, and England did adorn :
> The first in majesty of thought surpass'd,
> The next in gracefulness, in both the last.
> The force of nature could no further go,
> To make a third, she join'd the former two.

Towards the close of 1639, he returned to England, which he found on the brink of a civil war. In the commotions that followed, Milton had an active share ; but his political life we shall pass over, and barely mention that at the restoration of the King he was included in the general amnesty. When the plague broke out in 1665, he retired to a small house at St. Giles's, Chalfont, in Buckinghamshire, where he completed his *Paradise Lost*, the copy of which was sold to the book-

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seller for *fifteen pounds.* He had lost his eye-sight some years before by a gutta-serena, occasioned by night studies and frequent head-aches. This brilliant ornament of English literature died at his house in Bunhill-fields, in November 1674, and was interred in the chancel of St. Giles's church, Cripplegate. In 1737, a monument was erected to his memory in Westminster-Abbey, by William Benson, Esq. one of the auditors of the imprest; but his lasting monument is his works, particularly the immortal poem of PARADISE LOST, unrivalled by any human production of ancient or modern time.

ANNE BAYNARD.

ANNE, only daughter of Dr. Edward Baynard, a gentleman of respectable

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and ancient family, and fellow of the College of Physicians in London, was born at Preston in Lancashire, in 1672. Her mother was the daughter of Robert Rawlinson, Esq. of Corke in the same county. Dr. Baynard, perceiving in his daughter the promise of superior talents, assisted their developement by a liberal education. The rapid progress and improvement made by Anne in different branches of science and learning, did credit to the judgment of her father, and justified the promise of her early years. She died prematurely, in the twenty-fifth year of her age, June 12th, 1697. The following particulars of her character and endowments are extracted from the introduction to her funeral sermon, preached by John Prude, M. A., at the parish church of Barnes,

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By this gentleman we are informed, that she was well acquainted with philosophy, with astronomy, mathematics, and physics. That she was "not only conversant with these sciences, but a mistress of them, and that to such a degree as few of her sex had ever attained." That she was familiar with the writings of the ancients in their original languages. "At the age of twenty-three," says he, "she had the knowledge of a profound philosopher." In metaphysical learning, we are also told, "she was a nervous and subtle disputant." She took great pains to perfect herself in the Greek language, that she might have the pleasure of reading in their native purity the works of St. Chrysostom. Her compositions in the Latin, which were various, were written in a pure and elegant style.

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She possessed an acute and comprehensive mind, an ardent thirst of knowledge, and a retentive memory. She was accustomed to declare, ‘ that it was a sin to be content with a little knowledge.’

To the endowments of the mind she added the virtues of the heart; she was modest, humble, chaste, and benevolent, exemplary in her whole conduct, and in every relative duty. She was pious and constant in her devotions, both public and private; beneficent to the poor; simple in her manners; retired, and perhaps somewhat too rigid, in her notions and habits. It was her custom to lay aside a certain portion of her income, which was not large, for charitable uses; to this she added an ardent desire and strenuous efforts for the mental and

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moral improvement of those within her circle and influence.

About two years previous to her death, her spirits seem to have been impressed with an idea of her early dissolution; a sentiment which first suggested itself to her mind while walking alone, among the tombs, in a churchyard. On her death-bed, she earnestly entreated the minister who attended her, that he would exhort all the young people of his congregation to the study of wisdom and knowledge, as the means of moral improvement, and real happiness. 'I could wish,' says she, 'that all young persons might be exhorted to the practice of virtue, and to increase their knowledge by the study of philosophy; and more especially to read the great book of nature, wherein they may see

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the wisdom and power of the Creator, in the order of the universe, and in the production and preservation of all things.'—'That women are capable of such improvements, which will better their judgments and understandings, is past all doubt, would they but set about it in earnest, and spend but half of that time in study and thinking, which they do in visits, vanity, and folly. It would introduce a composure of mind, and lay a solid basis for wisdom and knowledge, by which they would be better enabled to serve God, and to help their neighbours.'

The following character is given of this lady in Mr. Collier's Historical Dictionary. "Anne Baynard, for her prudence, piety, and learning, deserves to have her memory perpetuated;

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she was not only skilled in the learned languages, but in all manner of literature and philosophy, without vanity or affectation. Her words were few, well chosen, and expressive. She was seldom seen to smile, being rather of a reserved and stoical disposition; their doctrine, in most parts, seeming agreeable to her natural temper, for she never read or spake of the stoics but with a kind of delight. She had a contempt of the world, especially of the finery and gaiety of life. She had a great regard and veneration for the sacred name of God, and made it the whole business of her life to promote his honour and glory; and the great end of her study was to encounter atheists and libertines, as may appear from some severe satires written in the Latin tongue, in which language she had

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great readiness and fluency of expression; which made a gentleman of no small parts and learning say of her—

" *Annam* gens *Solymæa*, *Annam* gens *Belgica* jactat,
At superas *Annas*, *Anna Baynarda*, duas."

' Fam'd *Solyma* her *Anna* boasts,
In sacred writ renown'd;
Another *Anna*'s high deserts
Through *Belgia*'s coasts resound:
But *Britain* can an *Anna* show,
That shines more bright than they;
Wisdom and piety in her
Sheds each its noblest ray.'

Anne Baynard died at Barnes, in the county of Surrey, in 1697, and was buried at the east end of the churchyard, where a small monument is erected to her memory.

THE END.

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